

District 16. (200)

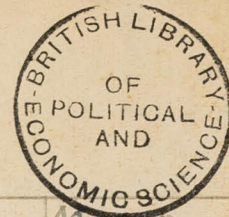
miscellaneous

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Blk. XXXI

Charles Booth,
9, Adelphi Terrace,
Strand London, W.C.

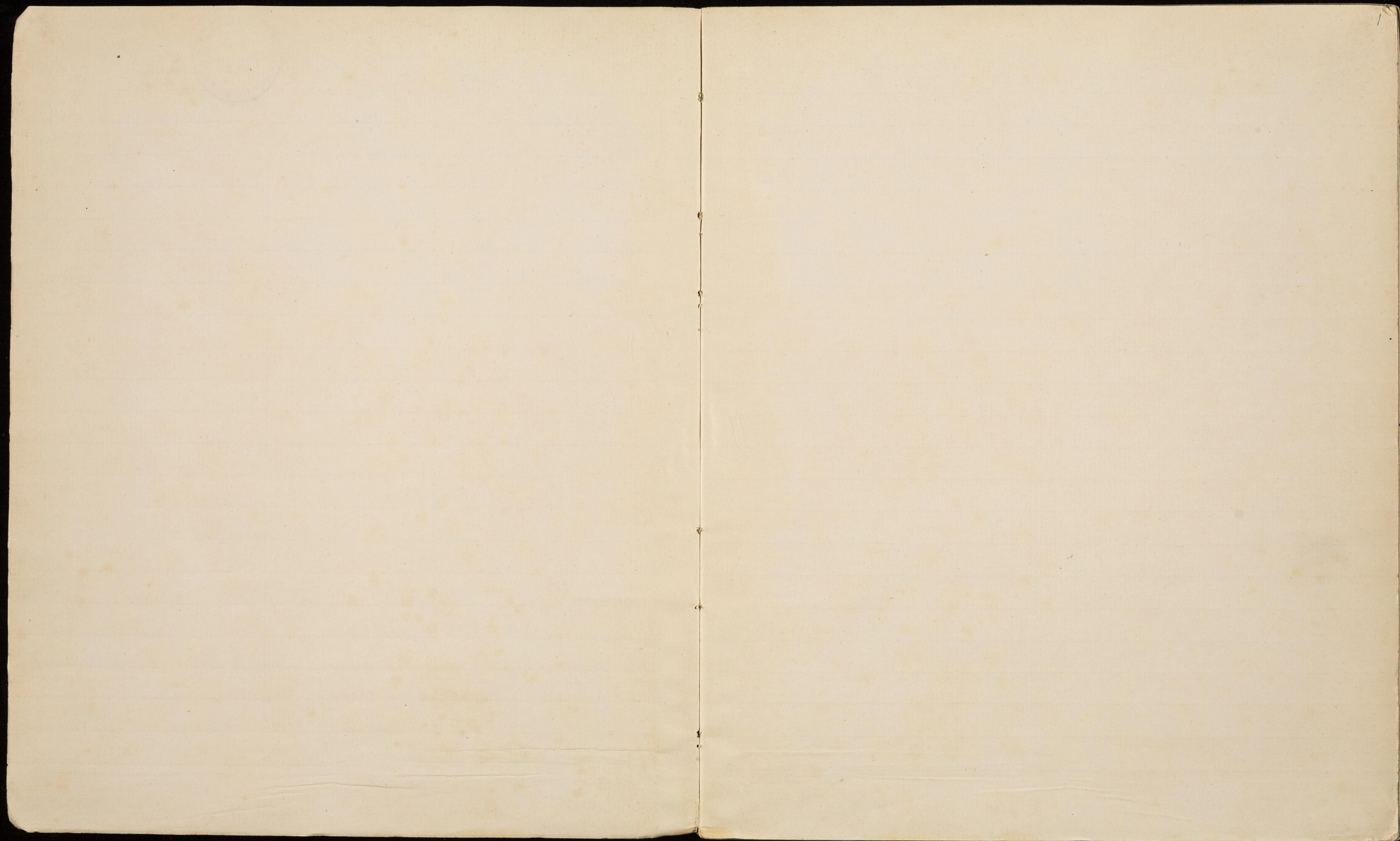
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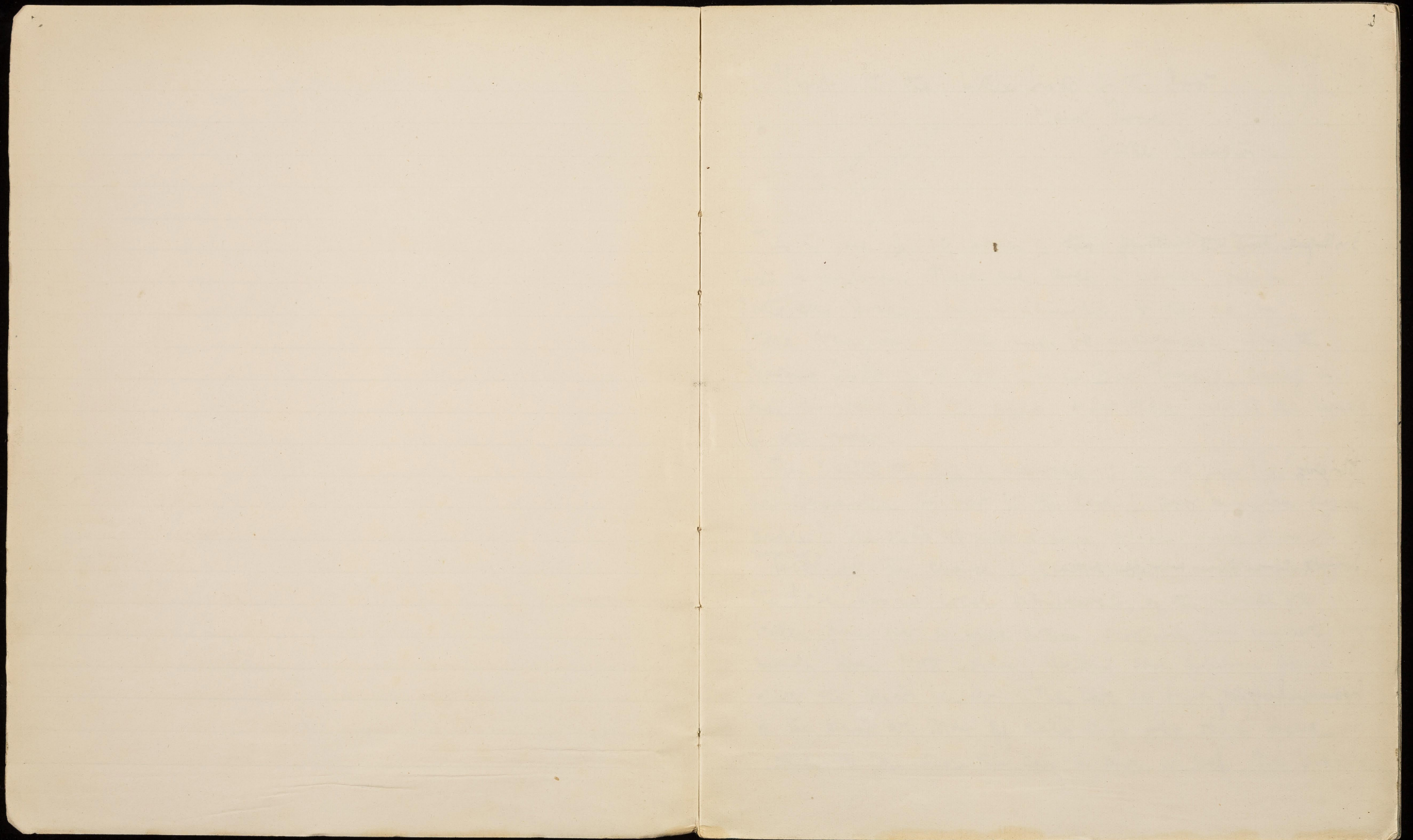
B 200



(i)

Name	Office	Address	Page
Little Sisters of the Poor	Nurses for Aged	Manor R ^d Stoke New ^{tn}	5
Pritchard &c.	Miss	COS SE Islington	15
Agar	Mr	R.O.	29
Blyth	M ^r & M ^{rs}	Chairman of COS Com ^{tee}	35
Torrance	M ^r A. M.	J.P., L.C.C. &c.	57





Distinguished from the Nursing Sisters.

Objects.

Income care for a wide area.

Alms + begging.

Visit to the Little Sisters of the Poor

Manor Road

Stoke Newington.

S. Andrews
Stoke Newington

MS (2)

This is one of 19 houses of this sisterhood that now exist in England. There are three in London, one in Portobello Road, one in Kennington, & the one in Stoke Newington. They must be distinguished from the Nursing Sisters of the Poor (as in Bow Road), caring as they do only for the aged, & for these only in the homes of the order.

They "unite the life of hospitality to the religious life", & are "consecrated by vow to the care of poor & infirm aged people". The sisters are under discipline, & liable to removal at-will from the ^{Superior} Mother Superior. Except for the chance of its establishment in Stoke Newington the house has no local significance, as the inmates are taken from over a wide area, practically from anywhere, but mainly from North London, including some suburban London, near the sisters' cells. They have no funds & no annual & the sisters are told off daily to go out on a fixed round to get what they can in kind or cash. They take a

A substitute for the work-house.

Full.

Age limit.

Qualification: a reference, & necessities.

Why preferred to work-house.

Of days.

The building -

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Van & call on hotels, ~~minerals~~, on restaurant-keepers & on shops, ~~to~~ private houses & bring home anything from bank-note down to bread. It is in the area thus covered that they chiefly come across ^{the} ~~the~~ old people who live with them.

The home is practically a substitute for the workhouse. It is full, with 90 women & 60 men, & some 50 are waiting for the empty places as they may occur.

The age limit is 60. Admission is, if considered be ~~worthy~~ for life. The qualification is necessity, but they take some, not a very large proportion, who are put there by ~~some~~ benefactors, who pay perhaps £5 when the limit is taken. There is no religious test, but only 10 or 12 are non-Catholics. All are expected to follow the religious services & none are object.

The home is preferred to the workhouse as being more respectable, more of a home ("we are all one family"), & because no uniform has to be worn.

References from "someone we know" are required.

A day of liberty once a fortnight is granted.

I went round the building & saw the old folk at

9
dinner; the dormitories; the infirmaries (with 3 bad figures
in that of the women & none in that of the men); the tailoring
room (they are proposing to deal other rooms for those of other
crafts) the kitchen &c.

Everything was large, airy, very clean, & suggestive of
care & comfort. Many of the inmates were sad & senile,
but when the sisters spoke to any, I always got the impression
that they were kindly treated, & that probably the worst
old ladies were being made more comfortable than would
otherwise have been the case. But it was really a work-
house, sympathetically conducted, with charity instead of
rats & "little sisters" instead of an ordinary staff. The
work is probably worth the lives of the women who devote
themselves to it. It is more dullful matter it is worth all
the begging that is involved.

I asked about the expense of maintenance but could get
no figures, & the large amount of food &c. given would
doubtless make it difficult to give cost. The property is
freehold, & the total cost of the building has been £14,000.
Of this £7,000 has been collected, & £7,000 has been borrowed.
Of the loan, which has a small rate of interest, £2,000 is now

Summary.

Appendix.

Outlay.

No capital.

St Joseph.

The Parent-home.

The sisters at Notre-Dame.

The "Good Mother"

11
being "called for". A request for repayment doubtless
strengthens their appeal for money, & the size of the building
& the amount collected show that they know how to make
people give. By the rule of their order I believe they
are forbidden to accumulate a capital fund. They rely on
faith & their prayers, & St Joseph is their special patron
saint. (cf. pamphlet p. 39). In all countries there are
now two houses.

The parent-home is at St Severan (near St Malo) & all
the sisters speak a certain number of years there. In
this home, French is spoken & most of the sisters are either
Irish or Belgian. Of the total (19) only 1 was
English. Two came "from America". The "Good Mother"
(i.e. the head of the house) was herself French. She was
a woman of about 50 or 55, gentle but a little stern, &
with a not very pleasing voice or manner. I saw her at
the beginning of my visit, but was taken round by 2
sisters later off for the purpose - good people, but without any
special dignity or charm. The home is clearly a
center of much devotion & ^{many} good works, but I left with only
a feeling of qualified admiration. It is very much

A volunteer medical attendant (Proletarian).

to the credit of the Order that a neighboring Proletarian doctor (Dr. Odeh) gives them his medical services. He has done so for 20 years (I believe since the home was founded) calling weekly on special need.

For fuller information on the Order see pamphlet (pp. 113) "The Work of the Little Sisters of the Poor".

As I left all the Sisters were mustering in the corridor for a mid-day 'office'. They supply the whole of the service of the home.

Interview with Miss Pritchard, Miss Giles, & Mr. Arthur Smith at the Office of the C.O.S. 268 St Pauls Rd. (i.e. the S. Blington Committee).

The interview was mainly with Miss Pritchard, who has worked with the Committee for 13 years, part of the time as Hon. Sec.

The Committee now covers S. Blington alone. A separate Committee for Holloway [or North Blington] was formed 3 years ago. It deals with cases North of the Great Northern Railway & North Road, & meet at 2 Tavistock Terrace, Holloway Rd.

The S. Blington Committee is almost exclusively composed of ladies. In as far as the clergy cooperate they do so mainly to secure the help of the Committee for their particular cases & are really to help the Committee to make its work effective. Only 3 or 4 of them are really in line with the C.O.S. & in genuine sympathy with it.

The following may be taken as the C.O.S. character of the local persons:-

- Mr Wardrop - a weak man who sends on

his bad case.

Mr Hind - more or less in sympathy. Like Wardrop, he -
was intelligent.

Mr A. O. Smith - Cooperates, but only with his difficult cases.

Canon W. Cornick - Has no power, & is just an ornamental
Vice-President.

Mr Stanham - but not really care about the Society.

Mr Danning - Has not many poor. Is a talker.

Mr Fairfull - Is a warm sympathiser.

Mr Haber-Taylor - Ought to be a helper; pretends to be; he -
isn't. Pompous.

Mr Dorset - Has his own Relief Cl^{ub}. Runs it on C. O. S.
lines. Sends his cases up, & is one of our best of the clergy.

Mr Haigh - Touchy; just runs his own cases.

Mr A. Morgan - Is young & sentimental & cannot under-
stand the principle of the C. O. S.

Mr Gough - Is supposed to cooperate more or less.

Mr B. B. B. - President! Sends his cases occasionally for a case.
Never answers letters, & takes no notice.

Mr E. Hunt - Is both kind & sympathetic.

Mr F. O. White - Is a shadow of the usual type (i.e. like
A. O. Smith or Gough).

Mr F. W. Adams }
Mr Baskford }

Also of the ordinary type, i.e. they use the Society when it suits them, but don't really keep.

Mr R. Roe .
Mr Stuart-Fox
Mr F. T. Snow

Old "h-s". Has his limits.
Does not really approve.
Is very active with the friendly workers.
See below.

Mr J. Dicknell
Mr R. Leach.
Mr Light-foot
Mr Home

Has no power. Is old. Subscribes.
"One of the good ones".

"A very benighted man" - who never answers letters! But he has an excellent couple, Mr F. Brooks, formerly with Mr Leach.

Mr Pittman comes in with no Noncon. as an exception to the prevailing out-sidedness. They are in fact a difficulty as a body, & cannot be brought into line. They dislike any interference with whatever they may be doing. [Mr Harwood's attitude has been reported in the Liberator with him. He is, I see, a Vice-President of the Committee.]

I asked for other names of people especially worth seeing, & as first-

none were forthcoming. Eventually, but without any very strong recommendation, it was suggested that we might see:-
Mr Worman (Auctioneer) 324 St Paul's Road

Connected with the Rosemary Mission (St Matthews).

Mr J. R. Smith (Butcher) 33 Abchurch Rd, Cannonbury.

Hon. Sec. of the Brighton Relief Society, Miss Ordenwood described Mr Smith as "funky-gooky", & had no good opinion of him.

There was no office list of charitable agencies, but I was told a few following:-

Brighton Dispensary - Upper Street.

Brighton District Provider Friendly Visiting Societies (see next page. It is closely connected with the C.O.S.)

Holloway North London Nurses.

London Brighton Association of Friendly Workers among the Poor.

63 Linton St. The Hon. Treasurer, the Rev. F. T. Snow, 29 Buncan Terrace, is the most active member. The objects, or rather the motives of the Association were praised, but their methods criticised, mainly on the ground that their visiting suggested the idea of application for help.

ISLINGTON DISTRICT PROVIDENT & FRIENDLY VISITING SOCIETY.

Presidents.

SIR ALBERT ROLLIT, M.P.
A. M. TORRANCE, Esq., L.C.C.
REV. CANON MCCORMICK, D.D.

Trustees.

MISS PRITCHARD.
MR. & MRS. W. M. BLYTH.
S. HALL, Esq.

Secretary & Treasurer.

W. M. CRICHTON, Esq., 268, St. Paul's Road, Highbury Corner.

OBJECTS.

- I. To encourage self-respect and independence by making it easy for men and women to save a portion of their weekly earnings.
When there is no saving, distress from want may be very near. How many are now suffering because they lived up to what they earned?
- II. To give and receive information as to Working Men's Clubs, Benefit and Provident Societies, Working Boys' and Girls' Clubs, Libraries Schools, &c.
Those who are always at work have no time to find out about the various Societies, &c., which exist for the benefit of body and mind. A visit from one who knows about these things must be useful to many.
- III. To advise in cases of illness, difficulty, or distress.
Sympathy and friendship are always valuable, but never more so than when there is special need of strength and wisdom.

REPORT

For the Year ending December, 1894.

"Be not weary in well doing, for, in due season, ye shall reap if ye faint not."

THIS fifth year of our work has been one of very great difficulty through want of workers; at one time it seemed almost impossible to continue the whole of the district we have visited since 1889, and, had it not been for the

good work done by temporary helpers, we should not have been able, as we are, to report the continuance during the past eleven months of Provident visiting throughout the district. We were, however, fortunate enough to get strong help from an American lady during the summer, when many of our visitors were absent, and the place of the visitor who has the largest number of depositors, and who has had to be away from her district since July last, has been taken by a lady who has worked quite regularly and so enthusiastically, that the work has not suffered, but has gradually extended in her hands. Four visitors have left us during 1894, one through ill health and three through pressure of other work; and, under these circumstances, it is not difficult to see why we have to report that our depositors, who numbered 600 last year, have not yet grown to 700, and our receipts, which were nearly £200, have only increased to £225. This is in some degree discouraging, but we, who are still working, believe strongly enough in our principles and methods *to work on* and to make special efforts to get others to join hands with us in doing what we believe to be not only very helpful now, but which will tell more and more the longer it is continued and the more thoughtfully and earnestly it is done. Thrift, Association, Friendship! These are good words and stand for good things, and if each visitor only helps two or three families to know the importance of habits of economy and of saving, to understand the value of associating themselves in good Clubs and Friendly Societies, and to realise something of what *Friendship* means, we shall rejoice together in the knowledge that we have not worked in vain.

It is our intention, during the spring, to bring our need of visitors before the Clergy of some of the parishes in which the congregations are mainly composed of leisured persons. There must be in these parishes many who do not feel themselves specially fitted for evangelistic work, but who would be glad to give two or three hours each week to the service of their fellows. To these we can offer an opening for simple, natural intercourse with their neighbours, and the opportunity of serving them and of learning from them lessons which can be learnt in no other way. We should be glad to have ten or twelve new visitors this year, for the Barnsbury Provident Visiting Society is wanting visitors even more urgently than we are.

Another plan we have is that of making our monthly meeting of visitors more interesting and important by inviting representatives of various branches of Friendly Societies to come and speak to us about their work. We have a capital Lodge of the Oddfellows in our district, and during 1894 one of the first Lodges of Women Foresters has been started in Islington, and, in less than a year, has enrolled over sixty members. There is also some chance of a Federation of Provident Visiting Societies, and it would be most interesting and instructive to have each month an account of the methods of one of these Societies. There can be no doubt that an interchange of information would help to raise the standard of our work all round.

We have to report the success of our Children's Entertainment, when we had a gathering of about 200 children depositors, and also of the Annual Meeting and Entertainment, when between 200 and 300 adult depositors gathered in the St. Bartholomew's Schools to listen to the report of the year's work, and to enjoy an excellent concert of vocal and instrumental music. We have not been able to arrange any courses of lectures on our own behalf this year, but our visitors were able to make known the course of free nursing lectures given at the Cloudesley Institute, and some of our depositors have attended this course with pleasure and profit.

THE LIBRARY.

The event in the history of the Library during 1894 has been its removal, at the end of April, from Tibberton Square to 20, Queen's Cottages, Popham Street, where, owing to the kindness of the Managers of the Buildings, it finds a room rent free with gas. It is now opened on Wednesdays at mid-day, as well as on Saturday evenings. Our books are thus brought into a new centre, and new members have come from the immediate neighbourhood. We have received gifts of books from Mr. Walter Besant, Mr. M. Bunney and others, and this year, for the first time, we have been able to purchase some books for ourselves, with part of the money saved from rent. The kind donations of friends have enabled us to have a new book-cupboard made, and to meet the expenses of removal. We now need to renew or rebind the favorite books that are wearing out. We have lost very few books since we first opened, and these chiefly through the removal, illness or occasional carelessness of readers.

In common with other libraries, we find that fiction comprises quite 75 per cent. of the books taken out. But we have a few studious readers and one of them, Mr. Luker, has joined us as a helper on Saturday evenings. Mr. Bunney and Mr. Barnard continue librarians and Miss Balmer superintends the library on Wednesdays.

Mr. and Mrs. Blyth, 20, Highbury Terrace, will very gladly receive the names of new workers, either for the Provident Visiting Society or for the Library.



ESSEX ROAD LIBRARY ACCOUNT, 1894.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Mrs. Fred Bolton	0	10	0	Owing Treasurer from last Account ...	0	8	2
Miss L. Eckenstein	0	10	0	Rent, Cleaning and Lighting ...	2	4	8
Samuel Hall, Esq	1	1	0	Repairs	0	10	1
Miss Holborn	1	1	0	Printing Circulars and Catalogue ...	1	0	0
Miss L. Sharpe	1	0	0	New Book Case... ..	3	5	0
M. W. Watson, Esq.	0	10	6	Purchase of Books	1	0	3
Subscriptions of Members and Sale of Catalogues	4	4	11	Petty Expenses... ..	0	1	10
Sale of Books	0	0	6	Balance in hand	0	7	11
<u>£8 17 11</u>				<u>£8 17 11</u>			

PROVIDENT SOCIETY MANAGEMENT ACCOUNT.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Balance from last Account	3	9	9	Rev. L. Stanham, for use of Schoolroom	0	10	0
Mrs. Fred Bolton	0	10	0	Caretaker for Cleaning Schoolroom, &c.	0	10	0
Samuel Hall, Esq	1	1	0	Printing 500 copies of Annual Report	1	16	0
N. Masterman, Esq.	1	0	0	Printing 800 Tickets for Entertain- ments	0	15	0
Sir A. K. Rollit	0	10	6	Balance in hand	5	14	1
A. M. Torrance, Esq.	1	1	0				
Interest on Deposits	0	14	9				
By Sale of Cards... ..	0	18	1				
<u>£9 5 1</u>				<u>£9 5 1</u>			

December 27th, 1894.

Examined and found correct,
P. L. BLYTH.

On the district as a whole I got little information except that the agent, Mr. Fitzgerald, who had checked the original map for Mr. Bost (whom he associated with the Salvation Army) said there had been very little subsequent change. The old poor parts had become a little poorer for the most part, but the better working-class districts had become a little better. "men seemed to take more care of their homes". But this was doubtful. Some slums on Brighton Green near Collins' Music Hall had recently disappeared in the re-building of that place.

Miss Pittman thought that while Brighton was no longer the residential district it had been, rents were not going down now. Many flats had come into the Highway New Park district, so that it had been dubbed "The New Jerusalem". Some parts had recently & rapidly become lodging-houses. part, & as illustrating this Petticoat Lane & adjacent street were mentioned.

The following were mentioned as the relatively best spots for Brighton, which as a whole is not a poor district, neither "very good nor very bad":

- 1) The Popham St. neighbourhood. This has been improving somewhat lately through the new dwellings. The agents have the following list of the work-streets in this part: Sun Row, New Hall St. Part of Popham R. & Shepperton R., Norfolk St., Queensbury St., Elliotts Place, Two Culs de Sac at the back of Collins, & John Place (Upper Street). Roughly the bad quarter is that lying ^{between} Freeman St. & Britannic Row.
- 2) The district North South of Dingfield Street (off the Caledonian Road) especially Besonsfield Buildings.
- 3) Queensland Road (leading out of Banner Road, by Wrayton Park).

Miss Pritchard is a lady of about 50, a little ~~unpleasant~~ too C. O. S-y to make it worth while to go through the more general questions of the form. On this is run probably be desirable to see in Mr. Blyth, also member of the Committee. On Mr. Dow being Mr. Pritchard expressed the opinion that it was too costly given especially in the case of widows & spinsters.

Mr Dow being.

Oct. 30th.

A.C.

Miscell
16

25

Interview with Mr Agar, Receiving Officer.

Mr Agar has for 10 years been the officer in charge of the district bounded roughly by Green Lanes Road, Green Lanes, St Paul's Road, and Holloway Road.

In this district there is one exceedingly bad piece, the Queensland Road district, from which come about 50 per cent. of the applications for relief of the whole district. The inhabitants are nearly all casual labourers with a number of prostitutes: one common lodging house ~~contains~~ contains none but prostitutes of the lowest class who ply in parks and squares; another house of the same class has recently been started close by in Hornsey Road. outside is the legend "Lodging for respectable females": the women never bring men to these houses.

Mr A. attributes the roughness of the neighbourhood largely to the presence of a number of low class lodging houses; but

though the district is still rough and low
 there has been a great improvement in the last
 five years or so. This Mr H. attributes to
 several causes: (1) The influence of St Barnabas
 (Mr Hild). he and his workers have undoubtedly
 converted and reformed some of the worst
 characters in the district. (2) The fact that
 the managers of the lodging houses are better or
 stricter men. they used to be almost entirely
 confined to loafers, street singers, beggars and
 prostitutes: with the exception of the better class
 most of them have now been cleaned out. (3) A
 very large number of the worst of the labourers
 have gone to Tottenham and other ~~suburbs~~ suburbs,
 following their work. (4) Owing to there being
~~more~~ more officers the poor law has been more
 carefully administered; at one time nearly the
 whole district used to get out-relief. now it
 is entirely confined to widows, the old etc.

Speaking of his district as a whole Mr
 H. showed me the figures of the out-relief from
 1875; for about 13 years there was an

enormous and steady decrease, but for the last two or three years it has been rising again. This is not due to any change in the policy of administration, but to the fact that the district as a whole is becoming poorer, the middle classes giving place to the working classes. I discussed other matters with Mr. A. but got nothing of interest out of him.

Mr. Agar is a man of about 50. tall stout, sandy haired, and with rather a coarse face; very pleasant and jolly with me but giving the impression of having little or no sympathy.

Personal.

Interview with Mr & Mrs W. M. Blyth at
20 Highway Terrace.

(Nov. 5. 97)

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AD (2)

Mr Blyth is a Scotsman & is or was engaged in the City, but for a considerable time has given a good deal of his time & thought to local social conditions. He is chairman both of the South Brighton & Hove C. O. S. Committee, & acts as a kind of presiding & sympathetic genius over the work his wife undertakes. She was for some years Hon. Sec. of the South Brighton C. O. S. but gave it up some time back to organize the reform of Popham Ct. (see later). Both know Brighton well. She has lived in it for 25 years, & he I believe as long or longer. Both are at present deliberating as to whether they shall stand for the Guardians. They want to, but the step will involve accepting some things they are doing now.

Both are sympathetic & capable workers, he the more quiet & she the more easily stirred, but only showing the woman's appeal of nature. Both are extremely hard-headed.

Mr Blyth did most of the talking, he following & occasionally interposing, but only to supplement never to differ.

Mr Blythe work has been closely connected with the C.O.S., & during the last 8 years, Poplar Street. The five blocks of dwellings [in the latter place] were built about 15 years ago. The builder was bankrupt & the buildings found their way into the hands of the Clark Investment Co. They were managed by an agent, the owners knowing little or nothing of the state of affairs, & understanding less. The dwellings got into a shocking condition, were inhabited by a mixed lot on the whole & had all of tenants, & were as a matter of fact under threat of a closing order from the Vestry.

It was at this stage that Mr Blythe discovered them. She had followed a C.O.S. case from Peckham Bay to Poplar St. Building & was appalled at the condition of the latter.

They set to work to find out about them, & in little more than a month to discover who the owners were. Having found out the Clark Investment Co. it was found that one of the directors was known to a member of the C.O.S. Committee. They saw the chairman, a Mr Beale, made their objections & convinced him of their power to subvert everything asserted. He apparently had never seen the property, but known from the reports that things were not satisfactory, but had gone on accepting the agents statements and the people were so aggrieved to deal with that practically

Four months to find out names of Blythe.

Nothing could be done. He asked M^{rs} Polyt if she had any proposals to make.

Mrs Polyt has been seen but could not at the time undertake this business. She however urged M^{rs} Polyt to do it herself, & after some hesitation she decided to give up some of her C.O.S. work & take the matter in hand.

The directors handed over one block first, as an experiment. They were very good & gave M^{rs} Polyt a free hand, both in management & expenditure. But ^{she & her friends} ~~she~~ has a very bad time of it, largely through the agents who remained in charge of the other blocks, & her whole side about such management by those agents' work means - "paying", etc. & trying to get practically the tenants would be under the C.O.S. Under his note, was a good many tenant legs, including some of the best.

At the end of the year however the battle was won; the buildings were full & in good condition. At the end of the four blocks were then handed over, & the work has gone on satisfactorily ever since. They have been well looked after by the directors, & have been

allowed to spend a good deal of money, one item e.g. being \$1200 on drains. The upshot is that the annual returns probably do not show a better return than under the old management, ^{even} but commercially the improvement is very great. Instead of having buildings under threat of closure, they possess a property in good marketable condition.

The total annual rental is about \$6000.

The following are figures for the first block taken over:-

1891	Rent.	Areas.	Repairs.
1892	1420	74	217
1897	1123	34	190

The class of occupiers now does not differ much from that of the Peabody Dwellings, some people thinking the income lower, & others even higher. They make rather a special effort to retain some of the weaker class of respectable tenants - Mr. Blyth thinking that as a class they are often apt to be rather hardly dealt by, & pushed under when a little consideration would have kept them above water & in respectable surroundings. A good deal of drinking things go on, but there is no great excess, a special case is taken by parading. There is not a great range of rentals: 2 rooms 7-10/6 & 3 rooms 7/6 to 8/-.

More recently, Quins Buildings on the opposite side of the street have been put in the hands of me & Mr. Dykes ladies & the same process of improvement is going on in them.

Careful management of the property & collection of rents is by no means an easy one by the way. Savings are collected; there is a library with from 500 to 600 volumes; a Day Brigade with about 40 members; they are hoping to start a band of a friendly society that makes special provision for the acquisition of other members; a room belonging to the local vicar (Mr. Home) is hired, or if necessary a larger room in the Down Hall & lectures, which they are given. For one of the regular troops (i.e. brigade) a parish room is regularly taken & it is a sign of the attitude of Mr. Home that he always charges his 3/-, although he has the vicar's clockwork Co. on his back.

Altogether there are 22 ladies working in one capacity or another in the building.

One objection of an this work & supervision is that many of the work-leaves are moving to Pickering St. Buildings. They have tried to leave these, but are over and they

45
Cannot make any change.

The New tenants for the managed holdings come mainly from more central London, but a good many from further out - Tottenham etc. The latter, it is thought, is not a case for choice, but for necessity, & the more common reason is that as children grow up & go to work the cumulative ~~cost~~ expense of railway & other fares becomes too heavy on them.

There are big Broad benches in the neighborhood, but not enough yet in the Dlyt's struggle. [This was, I think, the only point on which her husband did not quite agree]. The view, in the Home, is "dead". He has not enough go in him to fight, but he does not like what is going on. He certainly believes in it; he probably does not really understand the nature of the work attempted; & maybe a bit afraid of the influence of the habit that he describes as a rattle, rattle, rattle, etc. They are in fact - a matter of religion, the Home is not intelligent or tolerant enough to see that there is work for everybody to do. The process, for instance, are

proving somewhat weaker in collection in the Providence Fund.
 Mr. Dwyer could not retain some influence when talking of
 the Home, but on the whole regarded him more in honor
 than in anger, & admitted that he could be induced
 to come & turn things over. But she & her husband
 clearly think that he is too obstinate & too ignorant
 to visit to the occasion. He would seem too that he
 must be somewhat intolerant as he forbids his
 nurse to visit & look after people who do not attend
 the Church! The Dwyers do not think that two
~~per~~ per cent of their tithes go to church.

The Ladies Bazaar make no provision for nursing, &
the Harvey Institution is used. There is a Medical
Mission (no mass) in Window Street.

Altogether it would appear that a rather remarkable
 piece of work is being done by Mr. Dwyer & his friends. She would
 not say, as Mr. Sears rather unwisely said of his parish,
 that they have reached high-water mark, but it is
 evident that there is not only good beside marginal
 but good influence at work. Some women - visit - collectors

to have been trained, + the ^{Dr} Dyke is very anxious to find
 other work for some of them to do + asked me about the
 L.C.C. buildings. She is also to the taste of Mrs Hill's demand-
 that many ladies can ~~manage~~ ^{manage} their own cars for car
 manage building, + is herself another one of those who have
 the double gift.

She advanced the opinion that bad people should
 be highly localized, so that their whereabouts might be
 known their contaminating influence cut-off. On
 the suggestion that if they were a fixed quantity there
 could be no doubt about the greater advantage
 of such congestion but the difficulty arose from the
 children. She seemed to think that it was better to
 try for congestion + make a special effort to take
 children away from home & utterly harmful, than, by
 diffusion, run the risk of doing harm to several neighbors.
 It seems to have been the terrible mixture of Popcorn
 & Buildings when the first war had been through the
 post-hum to her mind.

We discussed a few questions in their general relationship to
Highway.

On the clergy Mr Blyth said that the Highgate men
were a poor average lot. There were exceptions e.g. Mr Fairbank,
Mr Leach, & a few others, but looking them over though they were
not receptive of new ideas & of rather low intelligence. They are
hampered by the absence of example & by the prevailing dead
level of Evangelicalism. In some ways they are good
workers as a rule but generally on the same kind: Method
Meeting, Dads of Hope, Trinity Schools, & other work for foreign
missions. Often too they have their own missions, but multitude
inordinance there are generally a replica of the mother
church. Most of the clergy can't understand the claim
& importance of work committed into the hands of the laity
& the conversion of their people. Neither will they
give up their old methods or induce their workers to do so.
In matters of policy for instance, the majority are unprogressive
& ignorant.

Even the well-to-do parts of Highgate & Highgate are
becoming of distinctly a lower though not of a low grade.

Highgate clergy.

Change = which.

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The Valley is active.

Health is good.

Morality generally is not low, perhaps above average. Mr. Blythe has a great belief in the benefits that lead to flow from better housing - better + cleaner habits, better manners, better morals.

As to the effect of education he remarked on the rapid deterioration of girls after they had left school, the loss of clubs, continuation classes, + sustained personal interest. Much of the training of the boards was reading on the board, it was thought that the good hours were neglected, but that the bad ones were left untouched. It was another interest from which they had to be given.

Poor law administration is bad, + not done very often to any effect. It is not that the Guardians are lazy & corrupt; but they are ignorant - & want new + better ideas put before them. One Vicar, a very good fellow, who went on last year, saying that all he had been able to do was to make them use better language! That all said on, but apparently not of great weight. This Valley appears of the status quo, this Vicar is rather a "moonlighting person" without clear ideas of what she wants. It is for that

various reasons that the Blyths are proposing to go on the Board.

The price are a dear old, the local superintendent a good fellow enough, but like everybody else they were working up from time to time. Mr. Blyth would seem to do this occasionally, with a report, or rather a report to Scotland Yard.

There is a great want for a good place of healthy amusements in S. Mington.

[Mr. Blyth was in Hoxton a few weeks ago, & was much struck by the much lower level reached there than anything Mington can show].

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Mr. A. M. Torrance occupies a big house in Highbury Quadrant, & is a middle-aged, affable Scotchman. He is a busy man - a useful manager & merchant, a J.P., a London County Councillor for Islington, a leading member of St. Dunstons Church, where he was for 17 years Sunday School supt., & connected with a number of local institutions & societies, to all of which he is a liberal subscriber. He is an advanced Liberal & Progressive, & is deputy chairman of the L.C.C.

Mr. Torrance has lived in Highbury for 25 years, & has seen a good deal of change in the locality - the pulling down of old mansions & the building of streets of middle-class houses instead, such as Baywater & Stradbroke Rd.

Better class houses have gone down from 30 to 50 % in purchase price, & 25 % in letting value, but houses below £50 rent are as good as ever. A peculiarity has been the number of houses at £40 or so erected, in which 2 or 3 families are living.

People who can afford to live in such large

houses as he himself now occupies will not live here. 25 years ago it was different - then it was the Northern outskirts; now they go further out, to Finchley, Hadley, &c.

There is a good deal of poverty in Highway Vale. It was always rather poor, & of late has got poorer. About 17 years ago Ranning, Wyatt, & adjoining roads were built. The houses were at first occupied by City clerks, &c.; but were fit in many cases to a lower class, including many bus & tram men, &c. The people have probably come here to some extent from the New North Rd. district - Shepperton Rd., Eagle Wharf Rd. - & Hoxton, driven out by the extension of City warehouses & factories.

Drink in the poorer parts of this neighbourhood is not so bad as it was. A great deal of temperance work has been done, particularly by the Highway Vale Mission, & certainly with good effect in that part.

Churches flourish in middle-class districts, but where the working people live they are usually a failure. With the middle-class, religion is a fashion, & they are well-catered for in every way; amongst the working classes it is a most conspicuous failure, largely, he thinks, because the average parson does not preach to them or for them; & there is nothing suitable provided for them. Instances the comparative emptiness of the churches in the Southgate Rd. - working class neighbourhood; & the filling of Highbury Square & Christ Churches with middle class people. His opinion is that, altho' more is being done, religion is losing ground.

The P. S. A. movement he thinks a very good & successful idea. Mentions the one at Finsbury Park Hall, Finsbury Pk. Buildings, wh. has an attendance of 200 to 300. Mr. Carver is the leader of it.

Thinks, from his Sunday School experience, that people like their children to know about religion, altho' indifferent to it themselves. Has met with

people who were practically atheists but yet
wished their children to attend S. School. Of course,
the children like it, & that makes a consider-
able difference in the eyes of parents.

Mr. J. holds advanced views on Education.
Would make it entirely a State affair, & give
the children of all classes an equal chance
of rising. Has no doubt as to the
improving effect of education.

He would also have the Hospitals
supported by the State, & thrown open to all
as a matter of right. Believes that the
precarious circumstances under wh. they are carried
on must be detrimental to their work, & that
the constant & continual begging wh. goes on
- the cadding, shifts & contrivances of every kind
that are resorted to in order to keep
them going - are annoying, degrading & injurious
to those who take part in them. The
State shd. appoint properly qualified medical men

to do the work.

He regards Aslington as a well-administered & healthy parish, & as he never hears any complaints against the police, assumes they do their work satisfactorily.

Regards the enormous increase of outdoor games, & the growing provision of music, &c., in the parks, as excellent signs. The people, he thinks, will not put up with any sort of music now - they appreciate good music & will have it. More might be done in providing indoor amusements for winter - working men's clubs & institutes are of much benefit in this way. Would like to see more of them started - without the drink for preference, but he knows that is not practical.

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