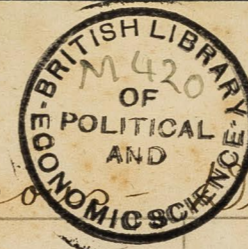


B(290)
Miscellaneous for
Districts 45 - 48:-

Deptford, Greenwich,
& Woolwich.

Book CXXXI



B 290

Miscellaneous Districts 45 - 48 Book CXXXI

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not numbered

June 10th 1890.

45

45

Interview with Mr E. Farthing, Regent-
St. Board School, Deptford.

Mr Farthing has been Head Master of
this school for four years, when I asked
him whether he knew Mr Booth's work he
said "Yes, well & reputation" and had often
tried to get the series volumes, "Dark St.
London", from the Public Library, but it was
always out."

Nearly all the children in this school
are drawn from the poorest streets in the
neighbourhood: very few even of them in our
purple streets attend here: it is recruited
almost entirely from Beck, Park Lane, and
Light Lane. The two great evils of the
neighbourhood are prostitution and drink:
the group of streets just north and south
of the school swarm with prostitutes: in

It is to be hoped that they are in almost every house; a large proportion of the married women ply in the streets as well as the single, wholly into the practical consciousness of their husbands. The ~~lower~~ women work all the main streets between London Bridge and Greenwich, but do not bring men here. As an instance of the moral degradation of the district Mr F. mentioned a case of a boy who kept away from school; there was great difficulty in finding the reason; eventually it was found that he and the whole of his family, father, mother, and six other children, were all suffering from a venereal disease. Let degraded as are their habits and filthy as is the language which the children hear and use in the streets Mr F. was surprised to find that the writing of obscenity on the walls of the closets was very rare here.

in fact almost unknown, whereas it was a constant trouble at a much more respectable school in Bethnal Green: (then as elsewhere there is more of it among the girls than the boys). I suggested to Mr F. and he agreed that the probable explanation of this apparently unusual fact - (i.e. that there is much more writing of filth in the respectable than the disreputable schools) - is that in such high low hood as this there is no mystery or reticence about sexual matters, and therefore no impulse to write things which are "common in the mouth as household words."

The poverty of the children in the school is very great: this is indicated by their clothing, which is always & watched and is winter by their semi starvation: "two or three days of cold weather and they all look pinched". In the matter of clothing, and

feeding not much is done for them; the difficulties in the way are so great: clothes are at once pawned and it is exceedingly hard to find out the suitable cases for meals.

Vermineous children are not common in the school, and when they are found a threat to report usually results in reform: in this connection Mr F. noticed that there is in the neighbourhood a not wholesome band of the R. S. P. C. C. whose officers are much more feared than the police. The pretty frequent cases of cruelty take the form of neglect, resulting in starvation and filth much more often than of active cruelty.

The school attendance is very low: about 70 p.c. among the boys, and a good deal smaller among the girls. But the

F. has considerably improved it in four years: in 1858 it was up to 83 p.c. for the boys, and the great drop in 1859 was due to the large amount of infectious disease which accounted for 3000 absences. Infectious disease was ~~an~~ epidemic in the school: at the present moment it is much less. Another cause of bad attendance is the large number of children who work for long hours out of school time.

As to the influence of the good among these people, other than the school, Mr F.'s verdict is that they are practically untouched: the Church is utterly futile, and the only agency which seems to try and do anything is the Ragged School in Gilpin St. The L.S.D. has lately started Continuation Classes and Mr F. himself takes them: they

are now being as a Mission effort: Since
any attempt is made to teach, the chief
objct- being to take a few out of the streets
at night. At present there are about 65
in attendance. The want for Institutes
or Clubs for boys and girls here is very
craving.

Mrs Lamert, Sec^y of
'The Deptford Fund'

G.A.
June 20/1900

The 'Sick Kitchen'

Miscell

13

45

Mrs Lamert, Secretary of 'The Deptford Fund'

Office: 50 Buckingham Palace Road. S.W.

Mrs Lamert is a tall elderly lady, well but quietly dressed. She has been connected with the Fund from its inception, ~~and is~~ ~~method~~ and is its moving spirit. Whilst she talks quietly and with the ease of perfect knowledge, there is a strong force of enthusiasm & feeling behind the outward calm, which showed itself occasionally in a tremor of the voice as she spoke of the troubles & sorrows of her proteges.

The Fund was instituted in 1894 ^(April) as the result of a Grey lady's visits to 13 ~~ailton~~ Street. She interested Lady Templeton in the matter and eventually the work was started to help the people." A house was found at 47 Creek Street. From that time, the work has grown and the fund now occupies a large new building called the Albany Institute in Creek Road.

The first part of the work to be started was the Sick Kitchen. Mrs L. had noticed how difficult it was to obtain well cooked food for invalids. Over 10,000 dinners are now given in the year, the

Kitchen

Kitchen being open 3 days a week. For particulars see Report on next page (pages 6+7) and Regulations below.

ALBANY INSTITUTE,

Albury Street, DEPTFORD, S.E.

Regulations for Sick Dinners.

1. The Central Sick Kitchen is open on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays only.
2. The Notice Ticket must be left at the Kitchen **before 5 o'clock** on the day before the first dinner is required. The Receiving Ticket, with the penny to be paid thereon, must be brought each dinner day to the Kitchen.
3. Dinners must be called for between the hours of 12.30 and 1 o'clock each Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.
4. Each Authorised Visitor may keep **two persons** on sick diet, *i.e.* may give six dinners weekly.
5. All Receiving Tickets not brought to the Kitchen on the day for which they are dated will be forfeited.
A post-card will be sent to the giver of the ticket that the case may be investigated, if desired.
6. **Not less than three dinners** must be given to any patient; but as many more as may be thought necessary.
7. All Tickets must be **dated for the day on which the first dinner is to be received**, *i.e.* for a Tuesday, Thursday, or Saturday.
8. It should be impressed upon the recipients of Tickets (1) that articles brought to hold the dinners must be clean, (2) that lent articles must be returned, and in a clean condition.
9. The diets must be **accurately** stated on the Tickets.
These diets are five in number, denoted by the letters **A, B, C, D** and **J**, and they consist of:—
 - A.** Chicken, with Yorkshire Pudding and Potatoes, or Mutton (or Rabbit) with Yorkshire Pudding and Vegetables.
 - B.** Boiled Fish, with Sauce and Potatoes.
 - C.** Beef Tea (each pint containing 1lb. of meat) or Mutton Broth.
 - D.** Milk Pudding, containing 1½ pints of Milk, two Eggs, and 2 ozs. of Rice, etc.
 - J.** Jelly.The **simple letters** only should be used for the above diets.
10. The Committee earnestly request all Givers of Tickets to **carefully conform** to the Regulations; by doing so, they will greatly lighten the work.

Visitors will be welcomed, and information concerning the Sick Kitchen will be gladly given on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, from 12.30 to 1.30 p.m.

Packets of Tickets, 51 for £1, 24 for 10s., 12 for 5s., can be purchased from the Secretary, Deptford Fund Office, 50, Buckingham Palace Road, S.W.

Distribution of Dinner Tickets

Lamert - Deptford Fund.

17

The distribution of the tickets for the dinners is done by 45 'authorized visitors', residents in the locality, each of whom can give 6 dinners a week, e.g. 2 on each day the kitchen is open. These visitors are connected with the places of worship (Church + Non-conf). Mrs L. showed me the list and I recognised several names of persons, with whom we have come in contact in Deptford. "It is pan-denominational" - all the denominations are represented except the R.C.s. - the priest refused to have the tickets. - but Mrs L. does not wish this made public.

The visitors have to guarantee that the case is one of genuine poverty + ~~that~~ to prevent overlapping. A list is kept at the house as an additional check and the dinners are only given to sick + convalescent cases. I have a number of maternity cases. I mentioned a criticism that the dinners were given to chronic cases which would be better in the infirmary. In reply Mrs L. said that they only gave to chronic cases which were certified by doctor - some who had had pleurisy or pneumonia.

District served

Local dislike to Fund

The Girls' Club

Lamert - Deptford Fund.

19

The dinners are given to residents in the parishes of St Nicholas, St Luke, Christchurch, St Paul, St Mark and St James Hatcham; practically the portions of the civil parishes north of the New Cross Road.

The Fund is disliked by the well to do people of the district. They object to the Fund pointing out the poverty and wickedness of Deptford, saying that it lowers the value of property in Deptford and also that it is untrue. Mrs L. seems to have an exaggerated idea of the poverty of the district. Whilst she agreed with the colouring of the Giffen Street area, she thought that Hughes Fields was poor and was evidently surprised to see the bulk of St Luke's parish pink.

The Girls Club (see Report p.7-9) is the work that perhaps lies nearest to Mrs L's heart. "The delight of my heart". It began with 22 girls from the Cattle Market & has grown to 130. All are factory girls, living in the neighbourhood. They work at the Cattle Market, tin canister works &c. and at the club all meet on equal terms. Only those living an impure life are excluded, this exclusion being effected by

the

Social Distinctions

The Girls appreciate music

Lamert - Deptford Fund.

21

the girls themselves, who will not associate with such an one. With these however Mrs L. keeps in touch and the other girls will make a collection for them when asked. In the club no caste distinctions are allowed and nothing is seen of the difference we noted in East London between the starch, match & other girls in the clubs there. It probably exists outside however. At the early meetings of the club Mrs L. noticed that the girls divided into two sets. Later on she asked the reason. It was this. Part of the girls employed in the market work on the ox and other on sheep. The latter being smaller & probably not quite so disgusting work is reckoned the better work & a distinction between the girls follows.

The club meets every Thursday. The girls are taught and take great interest in singing. Sing old English ballads, Moody & Sankey hymns &c. Mrs L. seeks to supersede the ~~old~~ coarse songs by the better. A public opinion has now formed on the subject and if a girl commences to hum a ribald song, the others will 'hush' it. They appreciate instrumental

music

Name	s.	d.
Address		
Description	Value	
Date given out		
Payment completed		
Description	Value	
Date given out		
Payment completed		
Description	Value	
Date given out		
Payment completed		
Description	Value	
Date given out		
Payment completed		
Description	Value	
Date given out		
Payment completed		

violin was greeted with
 attention to and appreciate

make their own garments,
 week by week. Each girl

very methodical. It is
 being in charge of a lady,
 in connection with the club and
 30 members, whilst 10 or 11
 responsibility ends and that

get up about 2 o'clock &
 "with their own or

somebody else's young man".

Other branches of the Fund work ^(a) at the Refuge.
 This has been combined with that of the Refuge &
 Reformatory Union (Report p 11) The Deptford Fund
 had 'too much work and no money,' and the other
 'too much money and no work' so the combination
 has been mutually beneficial. A Report of this
 work now in the press will be sent.

The Girl's Sunday

The Refuge in
 Greenwich.

The Deptford Fund Girls' Club.

SEWING CLASS.

WEEKS..	1	2	3	4	5	TOTAL.	£	s.	d.
Oct.									
Nov.									
Dec.									
Jan.									
Feb.									
March									
April									
May									
June									
July									
							£		

See back

The Girls' Sunday

The Refuge in
Greenwich.

Lamert. Deptford Fund.

music better. At first the violin was greeted with roars of laughter. Now they listen to and appreciate good music.

They are also taught to make their own garments, which they buy, paying for them week by week. Each girl has a card as at side.

The work of the club is very methodical. It is divided into classes, each being in charge of a lady. A Bible class is held in connection with the club and is attended fairly regularly by 30 members, whilst 10 or 11 go to Church, where Mrs L's responsibility ends and that of the clergy begins.

On Sunday the girls get up about 2 o'clock & later on will go out for walks "with their own or somebody else's young man".

Other branches of the Fund work are ^(a) the Refuge. This has been combined with that of the Refuge & Reformatory Union (Report p 11) The Deptford Fund had 'too much work and no money,' and the other 'too much money and no work' so the combination has been mutually beneficial. A Report of this work now in the press will be sent.

Other Agencies

The Workers engaged

Relief Given

Clothing

Hospital letters to

Lamert - Deptford Fund

(b) Children's Happy Evenings for the children of Creek Road B. School. (See Report) Meet on Tuesdays during the winter - 4 sections each meeting once a month - big and little boys; big & little girls.

(c) The Children's Guild, which unites the West-end children to obtain funds for the Deptford Fund.

(d) School of Domestic Economy. See Report - p. 9.

The paid staff of the Fund consists of Mrs. L. and an assistant, matron, mission worker and charwoman. A number of ladies gives voluntary help with the club etc but the usual want of workers is experienced. The work is growing 'enormously' and Mrs. L. is wondering 'whether anything will be left of us'.

Considerable quantities of clothing are sent to Deptford. Over 2000 articles were disposed of last year. Sales are held to which the women belonging to the mothers meetings in the parishes are invited. The goods are sold at cost price. Used to give some away but found the new garments were pawned. Hospital & Convalescent letters are also given away & a bed at St. Prunip's convalescent home at Bexhill is maintained for Deptford

Drink

Lamert - Deptford Fund. 27

The Church of England is doing all she can in the district, but is understaffed - clergy working night and day. The non-cons work hard and with more money (?), the Wesleyans especially. I suggested that the non-cons. had no endowments. Mr L. agreed that was so but they gave "so liberally for the district is taught to pay".

Talking of drink, Mr L. said the elder women were the trouble. It is etiquette for a bride to stand a 'go of gin'. These women got the young women in and induced them to call for a drink. The want of proper housing was a conducting cause. The only comfortable warm place is the public house.

See also page 39.



THE
DEPTFORD FUND

PRESIDENT:
H.R.H. THE DUCHESS OF ALBANY

SIXTH
ANNUAL REPORT

AND
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

WITH
List of Subscriptions and Donations

AND
BALANCE SHEET

Ec., Ec.

To 31st MARCH, 1900

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(Continued on p. 3 of Cover.)

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Report of the Executive Committee

To be laid before the ANNUAL MEETING at the Albany Institute,

June 12th, 1900.

THE Executive Committee submit their Sixth Annual Report, together with a Balance Sheet and a Statement of Accounts for the past year.

The Fifth Annual Meeting was held at Stafford House on June 8th, 1899, by kind permission of the Duke and Duchess of Sutherland, and was presided over by H.R.H. the President.

During the twelve months covered by this report the following events took place, and the Committee return their sincere thanks to all those who helped their work and gave their support in connection with them.

On April 18th, 1899, a successful concert was held in the Creek Road Board School by the Blackheath Old Girls' Association in connection with the Children's Happy Evenings Association.

Miss Gurdon Rebow again organised and carried

out a Free Concert in the parish of St. Luke's, Deptford, on April 20th.

The Windsor Strollers, on the initiative of Mr. Alan MacKinnon, gave a performance of "The Passport," on May 9th, at the Haymarket Theatre, by the kind permission of Messrs. Frederick Harrison and Cyril Maude, in aid of the Fund, at which H.R.H. the Duchess of Albany was present. This resulted in the addition of £169 12s. 8d. to the funds.

On May 11th the Annual Meeting of the Deptford Fund Refuge was held at St. Peter's Hall, Brockley; H.R.H. the President presided, and the meeting was addressed by Her Grace Adeline Duchess of Bedford, the Rev. E. J. Kennedy, the Rev. F. W. Macdonald, and others. It was well attended and resulted in much fresh local interest.

Mr. George Alexander gave a free Matinée at St. James's Theatre to the children of the Happy Evenings Association, to which twenty Deptford children from the Creek Road Board School branch were invited.

H.R.H. the Duchess of Albany most graciously invited all the helpers of the Deptford Fund to a Garden Party given by Her Royal Highness at Clarence House on June 20th.

On December 11th a Bazaar was held by Lady Maitland, at the Hans Crescent Hotel, in aid of the Children's Guild; H.R.H. the Princess Christian graciously opened it, and the result was a profit of £151 7s. 5d., which, with added donations, brought up the amount to £300.

On March 23rd, 1900, Miss Willoughby and friends gave a performance of the "Toy Symphony" to the children at the Creek Road Board School.

THE ALBANY INSTITUTE.

The Albany Institute is the name which has been given, by the permission of H.R.H. the Duchess of Albany, to the new building in Creek Road, Deptford, just completed by the Fund.

This building, which is the first of the three portions contemplated, was finished ready for an inspection by H.R.H. the Duchess of Albany on July 11th, 1899, and was opened for use on October 2nd.

All the work carried on in the old building has been transferred to the new, which is now in full working order. The Committee invite all those interested to visit it and inspect the work.

They feel sure that the funds urgently needed to complete their scheme will be forthcoming when it is seen how needful is the further extension of the Building.

The second portion of the Institute will contain the much-required large Hall and an increase in the Sick Kitchen and other accommodation, while it will also enable the bath rooms to be used, the space intended to be occupied by them in the present building having been temporarily appropriated for the work of the Clothing Guild, etc.

The old house and the Albany Institute have, since the last report, been used for 439 Clubs, Classes, etc.

SICK KITCHEN.

The work of the Sick Kitchen has been as follows: the total number of dinners issued has been 10,620. These were divided as under:—

Sick dinners	-	-	-	-	6,321
Workers' dinners	-	-	-	-	136
Children's	„	-	-	-	4,163
Total					10,620

The Sick Dinners are hot, well-cooked, nourishing meals, consisting of chicken, rabbit or mutton, with two vegetables; or of fish, with potatoes, beef-tea, chicken broth, or jelly. The charge to the recipient is one penny, and none receive less than three meals.

The total cost of these dinners, including those of the workers, who pay for their own, was £150, or practically 5½d. per dinner.

The Deptford Fund undertakes to supply at their own cost at least 150 such Sick Dinners in each week that the Kitchen is open, in addition to those required for children.

Tickets, intended to supplement the Committee's work and give the charitable public a practical and ready means of helping the sick poor, are issued by the Committee.*

The Committee have again to thank many

* The tickets may be purchased of the Secretary, Deptford Fund Office, 50, Buckingham Palace Road, S.W., in packets, viz.: 12 for 5s.; 24 for 10s.; 51 for £1.

kind friends for contributions of game, rabbits, vegetables, etc., to the Sick Kitchen, and wish to remind their supporters that help of this sort is most useful. Those who are kind enough to assist in this way are requested:—

- (1) To address their parcels to The Secretary, The Albany Institute, Creek Road, Deptford;
- (2) To state the name of the sender on each parcel, in order that it may be acknowledged; and
- (3) To enclose an addressed label if the empty package is to be returned.

The Children's Dinners are supplied from a separate fund—Lady Maitland's Children's Guild. Their actual cost is somewhat less than 1d. each, and each child contributes one farthing for a dinner. The farthings accumulate towards the expense of a child's cot in Dr. Pring's Convalescent Home at Bexhill-on-Sea.

THE GIRLS' CLUB.

This Club continues its useful work, and increases in membership and average attendance. In October, 1899, the Club was transferred to the spacious and well-lighted room in the Albany Institute, in which this and other work for women and girls is carried on.

It may be interesting to our friends at this juncture to note the progress of the Girls' Club:—

1895.	Membership	35	average attendance	28
1896.	"	56	"	40
1897.	"	75	"	55
1898.	"	130	"	111
1899.	"	175	"	130

The growth is purely voluntary; since the opening night in 1895 no girl has ever been asked to join; they come of their own accord or are brought in by their "pals."

The girls are taught plain sewing; they buy at cost price the garments thus made, small weekly payments being encouraged. When the Club started, the possession of one undergarment was practically the accepted rule, now it is not "the thing" to have less than two—several girls possessing three—besides aprons made by themselves.

The Singing Club improves noticeably; the girls have a passion for singing and music, and can now give a very creditable concert.

Mrs. Lamert rejoices to report that the increase in refinement of voice, manner and dress is commented on by all visitors, more especially by those who remember 1895, and she can also record with gratitude that this outward improvement is accompanied by a real effort amongst many of the girls after a better life. Miss Wilson's Bible Class and Church Class is doing a really good work: progress, though slow, is distinct.

The notable events of last year were the Summer Outing, by invitation of Mr. Sidney Lamert, to Well Hall, made possible by the kindness of Mrs. John Gurney and a few other friends (112 girls

revelled in the half-day in the country, and enjoyed the good fare liberally provided); and the New Year Feast, when 127 girls enjoyed Christmas fare of roast beef and plum puddings, followed by a concert given by themselves; the Chairman presided, and Mrs. Tarleton gave away the warm garments provided by the Committee and other friends.

Mrs. Lamert gratefully acknowledges the monthly concerts provided by Mrs. Price and that by Miss Annie Glen—Bank Holiday Teas by Mrs. Gordon (Blackheath), and appeals very earnestly for more helpers.

This large club is constantly held by the Secretary with five or less ladies to help; on sewing nights especially this number is quite inadequate.

It is intended, if funds permit, to open the series of airy dormitories for the use of single women and girls in connection with the Club during the coming year.

SCHOOL OF DOMESTIC ECONOMY.

This school, thoroughly equipped and furnished, was opened for work in the Albany Institute with 30 scholars, under two qualified teachers, on 2nd October, 1899.

The purpose of the school is to thoroughly train girls from 13 to 15 years of age in the branches of Cookery, Laundry, Needlework, Dress-making, and simple Hygiene. The Technical Education Board of the London County Council grant a yearly sum for this purpose; and the

*Girls Learning
Creek
Road.*

Committee of the Deptford Fund, recognising the exceeding importance of training young girls in thrift and housewifery, catching them, as it were, immediately on the termination of their compulsory attendance at School, accepted the responsibility of the work, and undertook to carry out the necessary regulations in conjunction with the London County Council. The girls attend daily (Saturdays excepted) from 9.30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Dinner and Tea are provided, which they are taught to prepare and cook for themselves. The course lasts five months, at the end of which the London County Council send down inspectors to examine and report on the pupils' work. Needlework in all plain branches—mending, darning and patching—is taught, and also plain dressmaking, each girl having to cut out and make an undergarment and dress for herself. A special feature is the Laundry, which has been most completely equipped, and which the Committee have reason to believe is as good as any other in London; thorough training is given in washing, starching and ironing, and some of the pupils' work is most creditable.

The Committee hoped that a large proportion of their scholars might be induced to enter domestic service, but they regret to report that, owing to the absolute refusal of parents to allow their girls, and of the girls themselves, to leave the immediate vicinity of Deptford, not very much can be done in this direction, though a fair number are now in service in the neighbourhood. It is hoped this proportion may increase in time, and that

eventually this prejudice, by careful management, may be overcome.

DEPTFORD FUND REFUGE.

The Executive Committee of the Deptford Fund Refuge unanimously decided last autumn that it had become necessary to find a new house in which to carry on their Rescue and Preventive Work: the Home in Ashmead Road was insanitary, besides being inconvenient and too small for the growing needs of the work. A Sub-Committee was formed, who actively searched for a suitable house in the St. John's and Brockley district, but with no success—the rents of large houses being too high, the smaller houses not having sufficient accommodation, or the owners refusing to “let” for Refuge work.

During this fruitless search an offer was made quite spontaneously by the Refuge and Reformatory Union (which has been established for over forty years) to our Refuge Committee that it should amalgamate with them in their work. They possess a good freehold residence on the borders of Deptford, and offered to keep this house in good repair, and to pay the salaries of the Matron and Assistant Matron, if we, on our part, would transfer our cases, hold our Committee Meetings and carry on our work from their house.

The advantages of this proposal seemed very great, and, after careful consideration, although regretting that the Shelter should be moved, both

the Deptford Fund Refuge and Deptford Fund Committees considered it an offer not to be refused.

The Deptford Fund still undertakes to provide the means for carrying on the work, which will now be extended to the Greenwich district, and has agreed to share the housekeeping expenses, and to continue to employ its own Mission Worker as before.

The move has been made, and the Refuge Shelter is now established at Shaftesbury House, Greenwich, whence the Committee hope to carry on the same work in the same manner, with the support of the Refuge and Reformatory Union and of those kind friends who have, both financially and by personal service, hitherto supported both Institutions.

The full account of the year's work will be published in a separate report.

WORK AMONG CHILDREN.

In connection with the Children's Happy Evenings Association, Lady Florence Pelham Clinton last year became President of the Creek Road Board School (close to Albany Institute), Deptford, and opened "Happy Evenings" for the children attending that school, assisted by a few friends, and by Mrs. Lamert, Secretary of the Branch. At first about 100 boys and 120 girls came; but the numbers increased, helpers did not, and it was found advisable to separate big and little children, the ages ranging from six to fourteen years.

On the boys' evening there is a "painting" room, a "quiet games" room, and a hall for boxing, tug-of-war, leap-frog, etc. On the girls' evening, in addition to the "painting" and "quiet games," a "dolls" and "dolls-house" room, and the Hall is used for dancing and romping.

The President has provided several treats, besides concerts given by the kind help of friends. At Christmas a Conjuror was engaged, and each of 350 children received a really good gift, besides a bun and an orange. At the close of the season, a "Punch and Judy" Show was provided, and royally enjoyed by no less than 482 children and little cripples, who also each received a bag containing four ounces of sweets and a large bun.

The children much enjoy their "Happy Evenings," but helpers are sorely needed to meet the increasing numbers who now attend.

This work is under the "Happy Evenings Association," but as the Committee have permitted Mrs. Lamert to help Lady Florence Pelham Clinton, this report is included in the account of the year's progress.

THE CHILDREN'S GUILD.

This branch is worked separately from the main Fund, though affiliated with it; Lady Maitland, the founder, being the head, under H.R.H. the President, while Lord Maitland is the Hon. Treasurer.

The main object is to help the children of

Deptford by the efforts of other children. The children of the Guild collect money which goes towards the expenses of the Children's dinners above described, and to the endowment of a permanent cot in one of the Children's Hospitals.

H.R.H. THE DUCHESS OF ALBANY'S DEPTFORD FUND CLOTHING GUILD.

The Guild has helped the objects of the Fund this year by providing 1,172 new garments, as against 940 last year. Its object is the distribution of clothing to the poor of Deptford through the agency of the Deptford Fund, and is managed by Her Royal Highness, with the assistance of Vice-Presidents and Associates. Further information concerning the Guild can be obtained from Sir Robert Collins, K.C.B., Claremont, Esher; or from Mrs. Lamert, 50, Buckingham Palace Road, S.W.

FINANCE.

The audited Balance Sheet and Statements of Accounts are published herewith. A list of subscriptions and donations, as well as gifts in kind, received during the past year is also appended.

The Annual Subscriptions for the year show a total of £403 10s. 6d. as against £385 15s. in the last statement. Of this sum £88 16s. 6d. were for the Refuge. This is a gratifying increase, especially when the numerous calls on the public in connection

with the War, etc., are considered; but the Committee feel that they must appeal strongly for more Annual Support, as the increase is not in proportion to the additional yearly outlay consequent on the opening of the Albany Institute; indeed the work is seriously hindered by want of the necessary funds.

The Committee appeal very earnestly for more Annual Support to meet the increased expenses of their new establishment; indeed they are, as a matter of fact, very much hampered at present owing to not having a sufficient income to provide for the proper staff; it is most necessary that a Porter should be employed to look after all the details, such as coal, windows, etc., etc., also in connection with work among men and boys.

The Donations amount to £1,101 17s. 4d., against £936 14s. 5d. last year, but of this sum £275 is from the London County Council on account of the School of Domestic Economy.

The amount received for the Building during the year has been £1,543 18s. 6d., the result of the Committee's appeal for £3,000. There is therefore still a debt on the Building Fund, even when all our unpaid promises are taken into account.

The Committee have again to record their cordial thanks to the Hon. Auditors, Messrs. Gedge and Ilott, for their careful and generous labours.

The *Daily Mail* Absent-Minded Beggar Fund, through Mrs. Alfred Harmsworth, placed a sum of £100 in the Chairman's hands for the relief of such

cases as were not reached by other War funds coming under the notice of the workers for the Deptford Fund. This sum is being carefully disbursed and has been the means of bringing help to several cases.

The Committee have again to thank Mrs. Harrison for her kind labours in connection with her "Penny Guild," and hope that others may start similar organisations, full particulars of which may be obtained of the Secretary, at the office, 50, Buckingham Palace Road, S.W.

CONCLUSION.

In conclusion, the Committee desire to offer their special thanks to all their supporters, and especially to those who have assisted by personal help in the Sick Kitchen, the Girls' Club, and other branches of the work.

They particularly wish to impress on all their friends that an inspection of the Institute is very much desired by them, and they feel sure that a personal visit will do more to show the necessity for the continuation of the buildings than any words they can use.

The work is increasing day by day, and exceeding the widest estimates; they earnestly trust that financial support will keep pace with it, and that their appeal for the second portion will be as generously responded to as was that for the first.

Again it falls to them to record their high appreciation of Mrs. Lamert's work as Secretary,

and particularly for the continued progress of her Girls' Club. The Assistant Secretary, as well as the Cook and Caretaker, continue to give every satisfaction to the Committee.

Signed on behalf of the Executive Committee,

ALFRED H. TARLETON,

Chairman.

May 26th, 1900.

Dr. RECEIPTS and EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
EXPENSES OF SICK KITCHEN AND CHILDREN'S DINNERS:							
To Provisions	£150	0	1				
" " Children's Dinners	19	7	6				
" Wages and Board of Cook and Caretaker		169	7	7			
" Upkeep Albany Institute and Sick Kitchen		80	0	0			
" Furniture		28	0	10			
" Fuel and Gas		13	12	0			
" Rates, Taxes and Insurance		27	6	4			
" Printing		39	10	1			
		2	7	0			
					360	3	10
SCHOOL OF DOMESTIC ECONOMY:							
To Provisions		64	8	11			
" Clothing		21	13	1			
" Stationery		4	17	9			
" Cleaning		13	13	5			
" Fuel		20	12	9			
" Petty Expenses		5	16	6			
" Salary, Head Teacher (6 months)	£50	0	0				
" " 2nd Teacher (6 months)	40	0	0				
		90	0	0			
" Equipment					221	2	5
					133	7	0
WORK AMONG GIRLS:							
To Girls' Club		77	18	0			
" Apprentice Account		17	6	3			
					95	4	3
REFUGE							
To General Expenses		284	14	7			
" Special Cases		131	5	3			
					415	19	10
DEPTFORD CHARITIES—GRANTS IN AID:							
To Rev. F. A. Pring—Bed in his Convalescent Home, Bexhill		20	0	0			
" " Child's Cot		9	9	0			
" Greenwich and Deptford Workhouse—Girls' Aid Committee		20	0	0			
" Girls' Friendly Society Lodge, Deptford Branch		5	0	0			
Work among Children					54	9	0
Relief to Soldiers' Families in Deptford (" Daily Mail " Fund)					16	4	8
					27	10	0
OFFICE EXPENDITURE:							
To Secretary's Salary and Travelling		132	0	0			
" Assistant Secretary's Salary		56	5	0			
" Rent		50	0	0			
" Postages and Telegrams		17	9	9			
" Incidental Expenses		20	8	6			
" Stationery and Printing					276	3	3
					40	12	9
BALANCE AT BANK					107	10	9
BALANCE IN HAND:							
To Sick Kitchen		4	2	7			
" Work among Girls		0	6	10			
" School of Domestic Economy		1	10	1			
" Refuge		94	9	6			
					207	19	9
					£1,848	16	9

ALFRED H. TARLETON,
Hon. Treasurer.
7th May, 1900.

for the Year ending 31st March, 1900.

Cr.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
By Balance at Bank and in hand, as per last Account:							
At Bank	218	3	1				
IN HAND:							
Secretary's Petty Cash	5	15	4				
Sick Kitchen	10	19	6				
Work among Girls	3	1	11				
Apprentice Account	4	0	6				
Refuge—Col. Blair Abbott	65	7	1				
					307	7	5
ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS for the year ending 31st March, 1900:							
General Fund	314	14	0				
Refuge Account—General	£74	1	6				
" " Special Cases	14	15	0				
					88	16	6
					403	10	6
DONATIONS							
General Fund	526	13	6				
School of Domestic Economy:							
London County Council Technical Education Board	£275	0	0				
Donations	12	5	0				
					287	5	0
Work among Girls	38	19	11				
Work among Children (Dinners, etc.)	63	6	10				
Refuge Account—General	£109	16	5				
" " Special Cases	75	15	8				
					185	12	1
					1,101	17	4
Amount refunded by Miss Shaw, being balance in her hands since 1897...					2	0	0
SICK KITCHEN RECEIPTS					34	1	6
					£1,848	16	9

GEDGE & ILOTT.

BUILDING FUND.

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT for the Year ending 31st March, 1900. Cr.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Amount expended on New Building, Albany Institute ...	5,971	15	8			
" Note Stamp ...	...	10	0			
" Balance at Bank ...	...	7	0	293	7	10
				3,142	0	0
				3,435	7	10
				1,515	1	11
				1,000	0	0
				28	16	7
	5,979	6	4	5,979	6	4

DONATIONS RECEIVED.

	£	s.	d.
To April 30th, 1896 ...	...	...	...
To April 30th, 1897 ...	...	...	...
To March 31st, 1898 ...	1,174	15	2
To March 31st, 1899 ...	1,936	10	0
To March 31st, 1900 ...	5,265	12	4
	1,543	18	6
	9,998	13	0

(WITH INTEREST.)

BALANCE SHEET.

31st March, 1900.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
LIABILITIES.							
To Building Fund...	10,654	13	9	By Cash at Bank:			
" Deptford Fund:				General Fund ...	107	10	9
General Account ...	113	10	3	Building Fund ...	7	0	8
Refuge Account ...	94	9	6				114
				" Cash in hand:			
				Sick Kitchen ...	4	2	7
				Work among Girls ...	0	6	10
				School of Domestic Economy ...	1	10	1
				Refuge ...	94	9	6
				" Land and Buildings—			
				As per last Balance Sheet ...			100
				Additions during the year ...	4,675	7	5
					5,972	5	8
	10,862	13	6		10,647	13	1
	10,862	13	6		10,862	13	6

ALFRED H. TARLETON,
Hon. Treasurer.

We have examined the above Accounts with the Books and Vouchers, and certify the same to be correct.

GEDGE & ILOTT,
Chartered Accountants,
3, Great James Street, Bedford Row, W.C.

CHILDREN'S GUILD.
Deptford Fund.

RECEIPTS & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT for the year ending 31st March, 1900.

	Dr.			Cr.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Grants	79	0	0	By Balance at Bank:		
" Prizes		18	1	Current Account	126	4 10
" Stationery		1	4 1½	Deposit Account	200	0 0
" Postages and Telegrams		2	1 7½			
" Sundries		1	14 7¼	Cash in hand	326	4 10
" Balance at Bank:				2	8 10½	
Current Account	82	4	0	Subscriptions	328	13 8½
Deposit Account	500	0	0	Donations	6	15 6
	582	4	0	Sale of Work	134	2 0
" Cash in hand	582	16	8½	Less Expenses		
			583 0 8½	Collected in Cans	151	7 5
			583 0 8½	Sale of Tickets	36	4 1½
				Sale of Cans	6	12 6
				Interest on Deposits	4	2 11
					4	2 11
				£667 19 2	£667 19 2	

MAITLAND,
Hon. Treasurer.

We have examined the above Account with the Books and Vouchers, and certify the same to be correct.
GEDGE & ILOTT,
Chartered Accountants,
3 Great James Street, Bedford Row, W.C.

Gifts Received from April, 1899, to
April, 1900.

<p>✕ 1,172 Articles of clothing (new) ...</p>	<p>H.R.H. The Duchess of Albany's Clothing Guild. H.R.H. the Duchess of Albany The Lady Florence Pelham Clinton Lady Darling Mrs. Gleadow The Hon. Mrs. Halford Mrs. Heygate Mrs. Penrice The Hon. Mrs. Talbot The Lady Jane Taylor The Hon. Margaret Upton Miss E. Wallis Mrs. F. A. White</p>
<p>✕ 197 Articles of Clothing (new) ...</p>	<p>H.R.H. The Duchess of Albany Mrs. Allhusen Miss N. Allhusen Miss Annie Croft-Brooke Mrs. Thesiger Daniell Lady Darling Miss Donkin Miss Fletcher Miss Gardner Mrs. Harrison Mrs. de Havilland Mrs. Heygate Mrs. Vaughan Lee Mrs. Martineau Miss N. Matthey Col. Poole, per Mrs. Martineau Lady Prinsep Miss Gurdon Rebow</p>
<p>✕ Cast-off Clothing, 730 Articles ...</p>	

GIFTS RECEIVED—continued.

Cast-off Clothing—continued ... { Miss N. Stewart
G. L. Stewart, Esq., per
Miss Gurdon Rebow
H. M. Stewart, Esq., per
Miss Gurdon Rebow
Mrs. Tarleton
The Lady Jane Taylor
The Viscountess Temple-
town
Miss E. Wallis
Mrs. Nicholas Wood

151 Hospital, Convalescent, and
Surgical Aid Letters ... { H.R.H. The Duchess of
York
The Hon. Florence Bos-
cawen
Miss Bushby
" " per Miss
Gurdon Rebow
Sir G. H. Chubb, Bart.
The Lady Florence Pel-
ham Clinton
Lady Darling
A. Lloyd Edwards, Esq.
The Hon. Mrs. Fether-
stonhaugh
Miss Le Feuvre
A. Lister Harrison, Esq.,
per Miss Gurdon
Rebow
Mrs. Leyland Hornby,
per Miss Gurdon
Rebow
Mrs. G. S. Hunt
Miss Isabel N. Jones
The Lady Beatrice
Lister Kaye
Sir A. Milner, per Mr.
Godson
Mrs. McSwiney
Miss Mellish, per Miss
Gurdon Rebow

GIFTS RECEIVED—continued.

Hospital, Convalescent and Sur-
gical Aid Letters—continued... { St. Peter's Parochial
Council of Charity,
per Miss Gurdon
Rebow
A. H. Tarleton, Esq.
Miss M. B. Tarleton
Miss E. F. Tarleton
The Lady Jane Taylor
Miss Taylor
Mrs. Arthur Tharp
Mrs. B. J. E. Wright

Illustrated Papers Magazines, &c. { Mrs. Armstrong
Lady Loraine Broke
Mrs. Couchman
Mrs. W. D. Couchman
Lady Cowell
Miss Gardner
Mrs. Lamert
The Viscountess Maitland
Miss Gurdon Rebow
Miss Sayers
G. L. Stewart, Esq., per
Miss Gurdon Rebow
The Lady Jane Taylor

Scrap Book ... { H.R.H. The Duchess of
York, per Mrs. Bland
Sutton

Vases, Flower Pot, Salad Bowl,
Jug, Cushion, Tray Cloths,
Blotting Pad, Dolls' House,
Rabbits, Flowers, Christmas
Tree Ornaments, Cards,
Flags, &c. ... { H.R.H. The Duchess of
Albany

Oil Cloth, Hot-water Bottle, Wall
Paper, Christmas Tree Orna-
ments, Money Boxes, Tennis
Racquet, Purses ... { The Lady Jane Taylor

Arrowroot ... { Miss Annie Croft-Brooke

Air Cushion and Towels ... { G. L. Stewart, Esq., per
Miss Gurdon Rebow

GIFTS RECEIVED—*continued.*

Books	{ Mrs. Clark Miss Annie Croft-Brooke Miss Sylvia Pym Miss Gurdon Rebow The Lady Jane Taylor Miss R. Webb
Chairs for Committee Room ...	{ A. H. Tarleton, Esq., and Mrs. Tarleton
Cake, Clock and Chairs (4 dozen)	J. J. Jenkins, Esq.
Christmas Cards	{ Miss N. Matthey Miss Twiss
Coloured Pictures	{ Mrs. Clark W. H. Kennell, Esq.
Crackers	Mrs. Tarleton
Cushions	{ Mrs. Heygate Miss N. Stewart
140 Dressed Dolls	{ Mrs. Lennox Beattie Mrs. Clark (34), Cheshunt The Lady Gladys Finch-Hatton Mrs. John Gurney Mrs. de Havilland Mrs. Jelf Miss Una James Mrs. Law "Little Friends at Bromley," per Mrs. Chambers Miss Sylvia Pym Miss Gurdon Rebow Miss Tarleton
Envelopes, Buns and Oranges ...	{ The Lady Florence Pelham Clinton
Evergreens	Miss Gurdon Rebow
Fancy Articles	{ The Lady Gladys Finch-Hatton

GIFTS RECEIVED—*continued*

Flowers	{ Children's Guild, per The Viscountess Maitland Mrs. Heygate Mrs. Martineau Miss Newton Mrs. Penrice Miss Helen Rice Stevenage Church Children's Flower Service The Lady Jane Taylor Mrs. Bridges Taylor
Oranges	F. G. Skinner, Esq.
Old Toys	{ Mrs. Brenton Miss Sylvia Pym
Parasols, Handkerchief Boxes, &c.	per Mrs. de Havilland
Quilt	Miss N. Stewart
Rabbits	{ P. H. Martineau, Esq. A. H. Tarleton, Esq.
Mince Pies	A. H. Tarleton, Esq.
Scrap Books	{ The Misses Greta and Peggy Hunt
Sweets and Toys	{ The Viscountess Maitland Miss Willoughby
Work Boxes	Mrs. Hunt
Sick Kitchen Dinner Tickets ...	{ Miss Adams Mrs. W. R. Bell Sister Constance "Daily Mail" Fund Lady Darling Mrs. Farmer, "President S.S.F.A., Deptford Division" Friends, per Miss M. W. Rix P. Mumford, Esq., per Mr. Spear John Robinson, Esq. Miss E. J. Shaw

Subscriptions and Donations, 1899=1900.

A Building.
B Refuge.
C Work among Girls.
D Work among Children.
E School of Domestic Economy.

	Donations.			Annual Subscriptions.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
A H.R.H. The Duchess of Albany	100	0	0			
" " " "				10	0	0
" " (special donation)	0	10	0			
A " " (collected by)	32	3	8			
B Abbott, Col. Blair				0	10	6
B " Mrs. Blair				0	10	6
Adams, Miss	1	5	0			
B Adkin, Mrs.				0	10	0
C & D Allhusen, Mrs.				10	10	0
B " " "				2	2	0
B " " (1900)				2	2	0
Alston, Lady				1	0	0
Amos, Miss				2	0	0
Anderson, Miss (per Miss Gurdon Rebow)				0	1	0
A Annual Meeting:						
Anon.		5	0			
Billington, Miss				1	1	0
Foster, Mrs. Johnston	50	0	0			
Gausson, Mrs. Frederick				1	0	0
Gausson, Miss Alice				0	10	0
Gibraltar, The Bishop of		3	3			
Keep, A. Perceval, Esq.	10	0	0			
Lewes, Sir Samuel		5	0			
Llangattock, Lady		5	0			
Scotter, Sir C.		20	0			

	Donations.			Annual Subscriptions.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
S., E. G.		1	0			
Vanner, J. E., Esq.	100	0	0			
Lee, Com. Vaughan, R.N.	2	2	0			
Westbury, The Dowager Lady		5	0			
White, Mrs. F. A.		5	0			
Cash Collected		29	6			
				240	11	3
B Annual Meeting, Refuge		41	12		2	11
A Anon. (per H.R.H. The Duchess of Albany)		5	5			
" (additional salary)		13	0			
Bacon, Mrs.					2	0
" " (for 1900)					2	0
Bailey, Crosier, Esq.		2	0			
Balme, Mrs. Nettleton					1	1
B Barclay, Mrs. (collected by)		2	10		6	
B Beall, Mrs. Baker					0	5
E Beaumont, Dudley, Esq.		9	0			
C " "		0	10			
Belhaven and Stenton, Lord					10	0
A " " "		10	0			
" " Lady					2	0
Bell, Mrs. W. R.		3	0			
Bell, Miss A. M. Bainbridge					1	1
B Blackheath Dramatic Club (per Mrs. de Havilland)		5	0			
B Blenkiron, Miss (collected by)		3	13		0	
A Bliss, Mrs. Metcalf		2	0			
C " "		1	0			
A Boscawen, The Hon. Florence		0	10		6	
Boucherett, Miss					1	1
A Boyne, Viscount		5	0			
B Brankston, Mrs. (per Mrs. de Havilland)					0	5
B Bristow, Miss (collected by)		2	3		6	
Broke, Lady Loraine					2	2
" " " (1900)					2	2
Brooke, Miss Annie Croft					0	10
Bull, Mr. H.					0	5

	Donations.		Annual Subscriptions.	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Bunbury, Mrs. (the late)	2	2 0		
A " " " "	10	0 0		
c Bushby, Miss			1	1 0
A Calvert, Mrs.	1	0 0		
c Calvert, Miss	1	0 0		
B " " " "	1	0 0		
A Carysfort, The Countess of	2	0 0		
B Cassan, Miss			0	2 6
Cazalet, Mrs.			5	5 0
Cecil, Lord Hugh			5	0 0
B Cecil, Lady Gwendolen			5	0 0
D Children's Guild, The (per Viscountess Maitland) (Chil- dren's Dinners)	40	0 0		
D Children's Guild, The (per Viscountess Maitland)	24	0 0		
D Ditto ditto	15	0 0		
China, Hire of, Mrs. Farmer	0	3 0		
" " Miss Garratt	0	3 6		
" " Deaconess Herbert	0	4 0		
" " Rev. A. T. Wallis	0	3 6		
Chubb, Sir G. and Lady			5	5 0
A " " " "	100	0 0		
A Chubb, Harry W., Esq.	10	10 0		
A Chubb, E. Hugh, Esq.	1	1 0		
A Chubb, G. Herbert, Esq.	1	1 0		
A Churchill, Mrs.	20	0 0		
Clinton, Lady Florence Pelham	50	6 0	5	5 0
A " " " "	150	0 0		
B " " " "			10	0 0
C " " " "	1	0 0		
D " " " "	3	2 4		
c Clothing, Girls' payments	5	3 7		
" Sales	29	18 7		
Cochrane, W., Esq. (per Miss E. Heron Maxwell)	1	0 0		

	Donations.		Annual Subscriptions.	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
A College, The, Bromley, Kent, Offertory Fund (per Rev. J. White, Chaplain)	1	1 0		
Collins, Sir Robert, K.C.B.			2	0 0
Constance, Sister	2	0 0		
A Cope, Mrs.	5	0 0		
B Cutbush, Miss (collected by)	1	7 0		
"Daily Mail Kipling Poem Fund" (per Alfred Harmsworth, Esq.), Sailors' and Soldiers' families in Deptford				
A Dallas, Lady	2	2 0		
Dando, Miss			1	1 0
B " " " "			1	1 0
Darling, The Hon. Mr. Justice			5	5 0
Darling, Lady	1	3 9	5	5 0
B " " " "	18	0 0	2	2 0
Dawson, Mrs....			5	5 0
Deighton, Howard, Esq.			1	1 0
B Deighton, Mrs.			1	1 0
B Dewick, Mrs. Alfred			0	10 6
B " " (collected by)	0	12 6		
D'Eyncourt, Admiral E. C. Tenny- son, C.B.			2	2 0
A D'Eyncourt, E. Tennyson, Esq. (Police Magistrate, Greenwich), and Mrs. D'Eyncourt	5	0 0		
" Dinners "	1	10 0		
Dobbing, F. C., Esq.			10	10 0
B Downing, Mrs.			0	2 6
Dowson, Ainslie and Martineau, Messrs.			10	10 0
Drummond, Messrs.			5	5 0
Dundas, Sir Robert, Bart.			5	0 0
Dutton, Miss			2	2 0
Edlmann, Mrs.			1	1 0

	Donations.			Annual Subscriptions.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Edwards, A. Lloyd, Esq. ...				1	1	0
Per A. Lloyd Edwards, Esq.:						
Ayles, C., Esq. ...				1	1	0
Dandridge, A., Esq. ...				0	10	6
"Friend, A" ...	1	1	0			
Heald, F. W., Esq. ...				1	1	0
Metcalfe, Miss ...				0	5	0
Robinson, John, Esq. ...				1	1	0
Squires, Mrs. M. A. ...				0	10	6
Taylor, G. W., Esq. ...				1	1	0
Worringham, T. E., Esq. ...				0	10	6
B Watts, E. R., Esq. ...	0	10	0			
Ellis, Mrs. (the late), per Miss Rix	1	0	0			
Fairbairn, Mrs. ...	0	5	0			
Farmer, Mrs. (hire of Room) ...	0	10	6			
Farmer, Mrs. (Dinners) ...	1	0	0			
Female Court of Foresters (Rent)...	0	2	6			
Fergusson, Lady (per Lady Jane Taylor) ...	5	0	0			
Fetherstonhaugh, The Hon. Mrs....				1	1	0
B " " " " ...				0	10	6
B Feuvre, Le, Miss ...				0	5	0
Field, Mrs. (per Mrs. de Havilland)	0	10	0			
B " " " " ...				1	0	0
Fitch, F. G., Esq. ...				5	5	0
Fitter and Son, Messrs. John S. ...				2	0	0
Fleming, Mrs. R. ...				5	5	0
Forsbrey, Messrs. R. J. and T. G.				1	1	0
Foster, Mrs. Johnston ...				5	5	0
A "Friend, A" ...	10	0	0			
B Gardner, Miss Ada (collected by)	7	3	9			
Garratt, Miss B. (Rent) ...	0	10	6			
B Gaskell, Mrs. ...				0	2	6
C Gleadow, Mrs. ...	0	6	0			
B Gordon, Mrs. ...				1	1	0
Green, Mr. Alderman Samuel ...				5	5	0
A Green, Rev. Walford, M.A. ...	2	2	0			

	Donations.			Annual Subscriptions.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
B Greenwich Police Magistrates ...	5	0	0			
A Greet, Mr. Ben (profits of Entertainment) ...	152	10	6			
C Greet, Mr. Ben ...	2	0	0			
B Grundy, Rev. C. H., M.A. ...						2 2 0
Gurney, Mrs. John ...						2 2 0
C " " ...	5	0	0			
D " " ...	0	4	6			
B Hall, Mrs. ...						9 15 0
A Hamilton, Miss ...	3	0	0			
A Hankey, R., Esq. ...	10	0	0			
Hardcastle, E., Esq. ...						2 0 0
A Hardman, Lady ...	1	1	0			
Harper, Mrs. (Rent)...	0	7	0			
Harrison, Miss ...						0 10 0
Havilland, Mrs. De ...						1 0 0
B " " ...						1 0 0
A Heathcote, Miss Boothby ...	1	1	0			
A Heathcote, Miss L. Boothby ...	1	1	0			
Herbert, Deaconess ...	0	5	0			
" " (Rent) ...	0	5	0			
A Heygate, Mrs. (per Miss Gurdon Rebow) ...	0	2	6			
B Hines, D., Esq. ...						0 10 6
Hirsch, Mrs. ...						5 5 0
Hornby, Mrs. Leyland ...						2 2 0
H., M.A. ...	50	0	0			
B " " ...	25	0	0			
C " " ...	20	0	0			
D " " ...	5	0	0			
A Hoyle, Isaac, Esq. ...	5	0	0			
Hunt, G. S., Esq. ...						3 3 0
Hunt, Mrs. G. S. ...						2 2 0
Hutton, T. O., Esq. ...						2 2 0
Hutton, Mrs. T. O. ...						3 3 0
A Iveagh, Lord ...	20	0	0			

	Donations		Annual Subscriptions.	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
B Jacob, Jesse, Esq.			1	1 0
Janson, F. A., Esq.	1	0 0		
Jebb, The Hon. Mrs.			1	1 0
B Keen, Mrs.			0	10 0
B Keep, A. Perceval, Esq.			5	5 0
B Keep, Mrs.			1	1 0
B Kendall, Mrs.			0	2 6
A Kenyon, The Hon. Mrs. E.	5	0 0		
Kinder, Com. E., R.N.	1	0 0		
B Knight, Mrs. Boughton			5	0 0
c Knight, Miss S. R.	0	3 0		
B Knill, Lady Stuart			2	0 0
de Knoop, Baroness	1	1 0		
A Laidlaw, R., Esq.	10	10 0		
B Lambert, Prof. C. J. (per Miss Ada Gardner)			1	0 0
c Lamert, Sidney S., Esq.	1	0 0		
B Lamert, Mrs.			0	10 0
A Langenbach, Mrs.	5	5 0		
Law, Mrs.			1	1 0
Lee and Covell, Messrs.			1	1 0
" " " (1900)			1	1 0
Legg, Dr. and Mrs. Wickham			5	0 0
Lennox, The Hon. Mrs. Hanbury			2	2 0
Lewes, Sir Samuel	5	0 0		
A " " "	5	0 0		
A Llangattock, Lord	100	0 0		
E London County Council Technical Education Board	275	0 0		
Lumley, Miss M. Savile			2	0 0
Macduff, Miss			2	2 0
MacKinnon, Mrs. Dan			1	1 0
" " (1900)			1	1 0
McSwiney, Mrs.	0	2 0	2	2 0
" " (1900)			2	2 0

	Donations.		Annual Subscriptions.	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
A McSwiney, Mrs.	1	1 0		
B " "			1	1 0
MacRosty, A., Esq.			5	5 0
A Maltby, Lieut. Gerald, R.N.	2	2 0		
B Marchant, T. W., Esq., M.A.			5	0 0
B Marchant, Mrs.			1	1 0
Margesson, Lady Isabel			1	1 0
Marlborough, H.G. The Duchess of Martineau, P. H., Esq.	10	0 0	5	5 0
B Martineau, Mrs.			1	1 0
c Material, Sale of	1	0 4		
A Maude, Mrs. Cyril	5	0 0		
Mellish, Miss			1	0 0
B Mellish, Mrs.			0	5 0
A Meath, The Countess of	2	10 0		
A Meyer, Esq., Carl (per Mrs. Martineau)	21	0 0		
Mileham, C. H. M., Esq.	10	0 0		
B Mileham, Mrs.			1	1 0
A Miller, Lady Mary	3	3 0		
A Miller, Mrs. T. A.	1	1 0		
Monk, H., Esq. (2 years)			4	4 0
Monro, Miss			1	0 0
Moore, The Hon. Lady Montgomery			1	1 0
A Mount Stephen, Lord	100	0 0		
Mumford, P., Esq. (per Mr. Spear)	1	0 0		
B Newton, Miss			0	5 0
A Norfolk, Mrs. C.			1	1 0
B " "			1	1 0
B Onyon, Mrs., Collected by Osborne, Lady D'Arcy	1	17 6	1	1 0
Oswell, Mrs.			0	5 0
Parker, Mrs. Archibald			5	0 0
Parr, Mrs.			1	1 0

	Donations.		Annual Subscriptions.	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Parr, Mrs. Cecil			1	1 0
B Payne, Mrs.	0	10 0		
Penny Guild (per Mrs. Harrison)	3	2 0		
Phelps, Rev. P. L. (Rent)	0	8 0		
Phillips, Lady Faudel			2	2 0
A Phillips, Lionel, Esq.	52	10 0		
A Pilkington, R., Esq.	5	5 0		
Plaskitt, J., Esq.			1	1 0
Pownall, Mrs.			2	0 0
B Poynder, Mrs.			0	5 0
Pratt, Lady Augusta			1	0 0
Pratt, Lady Eleanor			1	0 0
Quincey, Miss			2	0 0
Rebow, Miss Gurdon	0	1 6	1	1 0
B Rees, Mrs.			0	5 0
B Reid, Mrs.			1	1 0
Renton, J. Hall, Esq.			2	2 0
Robinson, John, Esq.	2	1 0		
A " "	2	0 0		
Rochester, Bishop of			1	0 0
" " (1900)			1	0 0
B Rücker, F. G., Esq. (2 years) ...			2	2 0
B S. German's, Blackheath, Offertory	11	15 9		
B S. James's, Hatcham "	9	1 0		
D St. John, Lt.-Col.	1	0 0		
St. John, Capt.	1	0 0		
S. Nicholas', Deptford, Harvest Offertory (per Rev. A. T. Wallis, M.A.)	1	1 0		
B S. Paul's, Deptford, Men's Social Club (Rent)	4	5 0		
B S. Peter's, Brockley, Offertory ...	17	18 3		
A Sandeman, Albert, Esq., and Mrs. Sandeman	5	5 0		
S. B. S.			1	1 0

	Donations.		Annual Subscriptions.	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
School of Domestic Economy ...	2	10 0		
E " " "	2	5 0		
A Scotter, Mrs. Fred	5	0 0		
A Sefi, Michael, Esq.	5	5 0		
B Selby, Miss			0	2 6
A Sharp, Herbert, Esq.	100	0 0		
Shaw, Miss E. J.	3	0 0		
Short, Mrs.			0	5 0
c Sindall, Mrs.	0	5 0		
A Skinner, F. G., Esq....	2	2 0		
Smith, Alfred D., Esq.			1	1 0
Smith, Mrs. Robert			1	1 0
B Soames, Mrs....			1	1 0
A Somerset, H. G., The Duchess of... " Spoilt Cheques," Hon. Treasurer	5	5 0	0	0 3
A Stanhope, Earl	5	0 0		
Stapleton, Sir F. and Lady Stewart, Mrs. Charles			2	0 0
B Stodart, Mrs....	0	15 0		
D Stone, Miss	0	2 6		
A Strathcona and Mount Royal, Lady	100	0 0		
B Studdert, Miss (collected by) ...	0	12 0		
Talbot, The Hon. Mrs.			1	0 0
Tarleton, A. H., Esq.	0	2 0	10	10 0
B " " "			8	0 0
Tarleton, Mrs.	0	1 10	5	5 0
A " " "	5	0 0		
B " " "			3	0 0
Tarleton, The Misses M. B. & E. F. Teichmann, Mrs.			2	2 0
Templetown, Viscount			5	0 0
Templetown, Viscountess			1	0 0
B Thorne, Mrs.			5	0 0
Tippinge, Com. L. G., R.N.			0	5 0
Tippinge, Mrs. F. Gartside			5	0 0
			1	1 0

	Donations.		Annual Subscriptions.	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Tomkinson, R. E., Esq.			2	2 0
A Tracey, Lady	5	0 0		
Turner, Mrs. (Rent)	0	10 6		
Twiss, Mrs.			1	1 0
Vezey, J. J., Esq.			1	1 0
A Vickers, A., Esq.	10	0 0		
A Vintners' Company, The	21	0 0		
A Vivian, Mrs. Ralph	10	10 0		
E Voysey, Mrs.	1	0 0		
Wallis, Rev. A. T., M.A. (Rent) ...	0	5 3		
Ward, W. H., Esq.			0	10 6
A Warde, Miss I.	1	0 0		
" " " (collected by) ...	0	12 0		
A Warde, The Misses	3	3 0		
" Miss I.			1	1 0
" Miss A.			1	1 0
Way, Mrs.			1	1 0
A Weddle, Miss (per Miss Ada Gardner)	0	5 0		
Wernher, Mrs. Julius	25	0 0		
B Wetherell, Mrs.			0	5 0
Whateley, Mr. and The Hon. Mrs.			1	1 0
C White, Miss C.	0	10 0		
White, Mrs. F. A.	5	0 0	2	0 0
Whittuck, The Hon. Mrs.			5	0 0
Wightman, C., Esq.			5	5 0
B Wilkinson, Mrs.			1	1 0
Windsor Strollers, profits of				
Matinée (per Mr. Alan Mac-				
Kinnon)	168	12 8		
Willett, Mrs.			3	0 0
B Woodward, Mrs.			0	2 6
B Worringham, T., Esq.			0	10 0
Wylie, A. H., Esq.			1	1 0
A Loan from Messrs. Drummond ...	1,000	0 0		
A Interest	28	16 7		

	Donations.		Annual Subscriptions.	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
c Repayment, "E. H."	0	2 0		
" " "	0	3 0		
B " " " "R. J."	2	0 0		
B Repayments	3	5 0		
Sale of "About Deptford" (per				
Hon. Treasurer)	0	10 0		
B Collected in Box at Refuge ...	0	4 8		
Balance from Relief Account ...	8	12 8		
	<hr/>		<hr/>	
GROSS TOTALS	£3,645	15 10	£403	10 6

BANKER'S ORDER.

..... 19

Messrs.....

.....

Pay to DEPTFORD FUND (Messrs. DRUMMOND'S BANK) the sum of

..... and continue

the same annually on April 1st each year.

DEPTFORD FUND.

I promise to subscribe £..... per annum,* or, as a Donation,

£..... towards the above Fund.

Cheques and Postal Orders to be crossed "Drummond's a/c, Deptford Fund."

Please address to—

ALFRED H. TARLETON, ESQ.,

Hon. Treasurer,

DEPTFORD FUND OFFICE,

50, BUCKINGHAM PALACE ROAD, S.W.

* It is requested that Annual Subscriptions be renewed on April 1st.

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 Mrs. RALPH VIVIAN
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 Mrs. WAY
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 Mr. H. L. and the Hon. Mrs. WHATELEY
 F. A. WHITE, Esq.
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 The Hon. Mrs. WHITTUCK
 ROBERT WHYTE, Esq.
 Mrs. ROBERT WHYTE
 C. WIGHTMAN, Esq.
 Mrs. WILKINSON
 W. WILLETT, Esq.
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 Mrs. WINDLE
 P. F. WOOD, Esq.
 C. F. CORY WRIGHT, Esq.
 A. H. WYLIE, Esq.
 Miss YEATMAN

Miscell

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June 22nd. 1900.Interview with Miss Patchen, Dept for
C.O.S.

Miss Patchen has been Sec. of this Committee for three years. She is an able young lady of strong character and probably a good organizer; but I should say with little or no sympathy. She has not I think been a success here and did not seem to know much of her district. It should be mentioned however that before her appointment the work of the district was ~~left~~ left almost entirely to the agent, who was also a parish clerk, and did the C.O.S. business in a most satisfactory way. Miss P. claims therefore that the C.O.S. has not had a fair chance here and that there has been a considerable advance in three years. As far as I could gather however the only one of the clergy or ministers with whom there is any close cooperation is Mr Hoop of the Corpus Mission. A good many more make use of the Society occasionally,

but generally they go their own way.
 The only clergy who Miss D. thought were
 persons in the district were Mr Kennedy and Mr
 Grandy, but the latter is rather a buffoon.
 Of the hon. Mrs. Miss D. mentioned Mr
 M^r M^r took as raising large funds by sensational
 appeals and spending them most foolishly.
 The Deptford Fund was mentioned as doing
 excellent work especially in training girls for
 laundry work, and for service, though there is
 great difficulty in getting them to take to
 the latter

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June 25th 1800.

Interview with Mr Denison, Agent of the Greenwich C. O. S.

Miss Grant, the Sec. of the Greenwich C. O. S. asked me to call this morning at 11 o'clock. It was a day of torrid rain and she did not turn up, but the agent was expecting me and expressed the opinion that he knew as much of the District as the Sec. He is a nice old fellow, but was not really particularly helpful.

He examined our new map of Greenwich with some care and expressed his approval of it.

During the ten years he has been here there has been little change in the poorer parts of Greenwich: on the whole there has been improvement - due to some of the lowest being erected. Except among widows there is not generally any striking poverty except sometimes in the winter among the waterside labourers.

The C.O.S. in Greenwich claims to be in complete cooperation with all the clergy, the only one who is in any way unsatisfied being Mr Peasey who has muddled his accounts and misd. church and charitable funds. The not satisfied parishes from the C.O.S. point of view are Mr Brooke Lambert and Mr Clark's.

Mr Brooke Lambert came in while I was at the office. He said he had written me a letter after seeing me (it never arrived). Having been so afraid that he had left me with the impression that he was the only liberal churchman in the neighbourhood. He wished to correct this and include Peasey and Payne.

Extract from Kentish Mercury. June 29th 1900.

THE DEPTFORD FUND AND SHAFTESBURY HOUSE REFUGE.

The annual meeting of this Refuge was held on Tuesday afternoon at St. Peter's Hall, Brockley, Lady Darling presiding over a fair attendance, including Mrs. Ruspini, Mrs. Tarleton, Mrs. De Havilland, Mrs. Lamert (secretary of the Deptford Fund), Bishop Barry, the Rev. C. H. Grundy (vicar of St. Peter's, Brockley), Sir Samuel Lewes, Colonel and Mrs. Blair Abbott, Mrs. Benwell, the Rev. A. T. Wallis (St. Nicholas, Deptford), Mrs. D. Hines, Miss Butcher, Mrs. Dewick (Blackheath), Miss Hogg, Miss Ethel Lloyd Edwards, Mrs. Howard Deighton, Miss Turner (Visitor), Mrs. Musgrove, Mrs. Needing, &c. After prayer by the Rev. C. H. Grundy, Lady Darling read letters of regret for non-attendance. H.R.H. the Duchess of Albany, president of the Deptford Fund, telegraphed from Germany her best wishes for a successful meeting.

Lady Darling read the third annual report. The committee recorded the satisfactory progress of their work. They could not as Christians help facing the grave problems presented by the social evil in their midst. It existed all over the Metropolis, but in Lower Deptford, as in other overcrowded and poor districts, it assumed in many cases a peculiarly sordid and painful effect. The work was both rescue and preventive. Their mission worker (Miss Turner), who had made herself widely known and trusted, sought out each case, and, where possible, brought the girl to the refuge. It was the committee's rule, wherever practicable, to insist on the girl entering a home for six months, to be under religious influence and discipline and in healthy surroundings before again going out into the world to respectably earn her own living. The question of how best to aid girls from miserably evil surroundings, predisposed by parentage to drink and vice, often of weak intellect and incapable of self-control, must always be extremely difficult; nevertheless, the result showed that where faithfully and persistently grappled with the difficulties could be met—sometimes solved. The Deptford Fund still continued to provide the means of carrying on the work, which would be extended to the Greenwich district, as the refuge shelter was now established in Circus street, Greenwich. The visiting of the mission worker had averaged 1,340 visits in the working year of 46 weeks, in addition to which the hours of night work might be calculated at about 500 during the same period. The number of cases dealt with was 133. The preventive work had been much increased. The committee appealed for continued local support.—Bishop Barry said the committee were doing an excellent and praiseworthy work. He was of opinion that the law did not go far enough to deal with the evil with which they had to cope. Of course the law could not go to the root of the vice, but it might go much further than it did in preventing its spread. The preventive work was of course the most important, although that of rescue should go on without intervals. It was a very real and effective work, for they prevented the fallen being still further trampled down in the abyss of sin and misery, and restored them to their proper place in human life.—Mrs. Ruspini also addressed the meeting, and the report was adopted on the motion of the Rev. A. T. Wallis, seconded by Sir Samuel Lewes.—The Rev. C. H. Grundy proposed, and Colonel Blair Abbott seconded, a vote of thanks to Lady Darling, Bishop Barry, and Mrs. Ruspini, which was duly carried, and Lady Darling having replied, wishing the work every success, the proceedings terminated.—Miss Cassan, 23, Tressillian-road, St. John's, is the local hon. secretary.

Hospital Sunday Collections

The following extract from The Kentish Mercury of June 29th 1900 gives some idea of the relative financial strength of the churches in the S.E. District.

HOSPITAL SUNDAY COLLECTIONS.

Appended are the amounts collected on Sunday, the 24th inst., in the various local churches and chapels, &c., in aid of the Hospital Sunday Fund, so far as particulars have reached us. In order to afford opportunity for comparison we give in the first column, where practicable, the amount collected last year:—

Kentish Mercury June 29/1900

	1899.	1900.
GREENWICH.		
St. Alfege	33 2 0	28 6 3
St. Mary's	2 10 0	2 12 5
Christ Church	...	8 2 11
Church of the Emmanuel	2 12 4	4 9 6
(a) St. Peter's	7 17 7	5 5 5
Lewisham - road Baptist Chapel	10 1 6	5 12 0
St. Mark's Presbyterian Church	34 10 7	41 2 6
Seamen's Hospital	2 18 6	3 3 2
DEPTFORD.		
St. Nicholas	7 17 0	6 6 0
Christ Church	1 12 6	2 0 0
St. Luke's	59 11 1	43 0 2
St. John's	67 17 8	65 5 1
(b) New Cross Wesleyan Church	7 17 3	8 13 5
Lewisham High-road Congregational Church	33 0 0	50 0 0
Congregational Church, High-street	6 4 6	6 1 0
Zion Baptist Chapel	8 8 0	6 7 9
BROCKLEY.		
St. Peter's	113 0 0	114 0 0
St. Cyprian's	11 4 9	13 1 7
St. George's	15 13 0	14 13 11
(c) Brockley-road Baptist Chapel	15 5 11	14 15 0
(c*) Wesleyan Church	10 6 10	8 3 7
HATCHAM.		
St. James's	65 12 3	79 9 4
St. Michael's	...	3 9 7
Corpus Christi College Mission, Canterbury-road	6 1 6	5 10 4
All Saints'	30 15 8	30 15 8
LEWISHAM.		
St. Mary	60 0 0	47 2 9
St. Stephen's	31 8 5	17 0 0
St. Mark's	25 12 11	23 1 11
Church of the Transfiguration	8 15 0	9 9 6
Wesleyan Church, College Park	7 13 6	5 10 7
Algernon - road Congregational Church	1 14 0	3 14 3
CATFORD.		
St. Laurence	24 5 8	23 6 6
Southend Chapel	20 8 4	12 3 9
Trinity Congregational Church	8 16 0	9 5 6
Wesleyan Church	10 16 11	6 17 0
PERRY HILL.		
St. George's	37 14 6	40 5 5
FOREST HILL.		
Christ Church	61 18 6	53 18 11
(d) Wesleyan Church, Brockley-rise	6 7 1	7 2 2
Congregational Church, Queen's-road	4 10 0	6 9 7
German Church	10 12 0	9 9 0
HONOR OAK.		
St. Augustine's	44 4 3	44 5 4
SYDENHAM.		
St. Bartholomew's	103 13 0	103 14 1
St. Matthew's	24 17 4	24 17 3
St. Philip's	31 5 6	28 15 6
Christ Church	7 12 2	5 19 9
Church in the Grove	11 0 10	9 9 0
Wesleyan Church	10 0 0	11 0 0

LEE.		
Christ Church	45 12 1	42 17 11
Holy Trinity	33 0 0	17 16 4
St. Mildred's	36 13 11	31 7 10
The Good Shepherd	8 0 0	10 0 0
St. Augustine's, Grove Park	15 7 10	13 4 4
Baptist Chapel	10 13 3	8 5 8
BLACKHEATH.		
All Saints'	50 0 0	43 6 7
St. Germans	47 0 0	37 15 4
Church of the Ascension	22 14 6	26 2 0
Wesleyan Church	22 5 7	14 0 0
KIDBROOK.		
St. James's	...	219 2 10
ELTHAM.		
(e*) Holy Trinity	55 17 6	40 7 6
WESTCOMBE PARK.		
St. George's	24 0 0	13 2 2
SHOOTERS' HILL.		
Christ Church	5 17 3	4 10 0
CHARLTON.		
St. Luke's	17 0 3	16 14 6
St. Thomas	8 11 0	9 1 9
WOOLWICH.		
(e) St. Mary's	14 7 11	16 13 8
Holy Trinity	14 0 0	9 10 0
St. George's Garrison Church	17 1 0	20 0 0
St. John's	...	9 3 9
Wesleyan Church, William-street	4 9 6	4 17 8
Rectory-place Congregational Church	29 18 6	29 1 0
NORTH WOOLWICH.		
St. John's	1 16 6	1 1 6
PLUMSTEAD.		
St. Margaret's	14 17 10	15 0 0
St. John's	3 0 0	6 10 0
St. Mark's	...	6 17 0
CHISLEHURST.		
St. Nicholas	337 11 7	290 15 2
Church of the Annunciation	84 0 0	77 3 6
MOTTINGHAM.		
(f) St. Andrew's	...	12 16 0
CAMBERWELL.		
St. Giles	22 0 6	25 15 4
Camden Church	69 12 4	42 18 6
Emmanuel	6 2 4	5 2 1
PECKHAM.		
St. Chrysostom	11 15 0	10 10 2
St. Antholin's	17 13 9	10 5 3
All Saints', North Peckham	171 15 0	170 11 9
EAST DULWICH.		
(g) Lordship - lane Baptist Church	6 0 0	6 0 0
BROMLEY.		
Christ Church	9 12 5	12 11 3
St. Luke's, Bromley-common	11 0 0	16 0 0
Holy Trinity	13 6 0	14 10 0
St. John's	35 3 5	37 0 5
St. Mary's, Shortlands	35 11 6	51 3 6
Congregational Church	64 0 0	72 0 0
PLAISTOW.		
St. Mary	4 2 7	4 10 3

(a) The collections in the Sunday Schools and Bible Classes will be made on Sunday.
 (b) To be divided equally between the Hospital Sunday Fund and the Deptford Pension Society.
 (c) In addition to this amount £13 17s. 11d. was collected on the previous Sunday towards the Miller Hospital and the Benevolent Society.
 (e*) £13 4s. 2d. has only recently been forwarded to the Indian Famine Fund.
 (d) £47 has been recently sent to the Indian Famine and War Funds.
 (e) A large number of toys were brought by the children at the children's service and offered for the Children's Hospital.
 (e*) Including £4 17s. 3d. from Mission Church of All Saints', New Eltham.
 (f) For the Eltham and Motttingham Cottage Hospital.
 (g) Part given to the Surgical Aid Society.

Mr Joseph Baster, ^{District 45} London City Missionary ⁽
 visiting the Publichouses & Coffeehouses of Deptford.
 39 Vesta Road, Brockley. S.E. ⁴⁵/₅

Rev. R. Hopewell, the Wesleyan Minister, recommended us to see Mr Baster, as he knew Deptford well. He is a tall old man with a white stubby beard. Has been a fine man in his day but is now heavy looking and slow. His mind however is active; he speaks well, choosing his words deliberately, and has a certain dignity of manner, which possibly helps him in his task.

He has been 44 years in Deptford. When he came, Douglas Street was being built, the district beyond to the west being market gardens. The bulk of the population lived east of the High Street and New King Street. North of Evelyn Street, where Dacca & Giza Streets now are, was Brunswick Square, some cottages occupied by poor Irish. They have shifted to Hyde Street, which is poorer than it was. Others moved by clearances have gone to Bronze & Knott Street. Berthon Street was at that time a part of the Trinity Ground.

Along Evelyn Street, Blackhorse Street was then occupied by woodchoppers. East to Rolt Street was open fields. Near the Woodpucker Road a few cottages stood but the road did not go through to New Cross. To get there, one had

had to go to High Street or to Edward Street (then known as (Loving Edward Lane).

At this time Mr B. had a district west of High Street + south of Evelyn Street and used an iron building as a Mission Hall. This has since given place to the Hall now used by Mr Warlow.

The people stick to the neighbourhood. Many of the parents + people he meets are the children he knew when he visited the district.

Generally the district is better than it was; especially is this true respecting the number of fallen women, who were numerous in Riffen Street. The law (?) making solicitation a crime made a great difference in Deptford.

The number of publichouses has decreased within the last 10 or 12 years. Thirty two houses have been closed. Of these 10 were in the Mill Lane portion of St John's parish; 3 in Wellington Street (the new Creek Road); 2 near the Cattle Market. Licences were obtained easily in those days, hence the number round the Cattle Market. It is very difficult now to get a licence.

While the number of publichouses has decreased, the bar accommodation has largely increased. The Brown Bear in High Street was kept by an old couple and was almost deserted. It has been transformed and is now

now a very busy house

3

The character of the publichouse depends on the publican. Many of the men are much better than their trade.

Houses have special kinds of trade. Those near the market are supported by the men in the market. Near the docks are a few houses that do a light trade in the morning 10.30 to 11 - when they are crowded. The men come out to lunch in two ~~leaves~~ batches. A number of houses are known as women's houses:

The Pilot, High Street

The Red Lion " " (near Charles St)

The Gibraltar, Evelyn Street.

The morning is the time to see these houses except on Monday, when the women go in the afternoon. They have no dinners to cook & do not need to go marketing in the morning

Mr Baxter visits at all times, but generally in the morning and evening. The afternoon is the slack time, when the people are resting. He is well received. Not a house he cannot go into. Now & then one is croakety but he generally gets of over it. The people will chaff, ask him to have a glass. He has made it a rule never to drink in a pub - not even a glass of water - people might say it was gin. He avoids the appearance of evil. Makes repartees which the men rather like. "That's one to him, 1306!"

49

Not much drunkenness seen. The people go ^{up} and get their 'gobs' and off again except on the ~~the~~ evening. Not so many drunken women are seen now but many more respectable working men's wives go in for their drops. Some like to conceal it. He told an amusing incident of this. Entering the Pilot, he saw a woman he knew in the opposite bar: she drank her liquor and went out hastily to avoid him. From there he went to the Prince Regent - the woman was ^{there}; she had come to change a sixpence she said & quickly left. Almost immediately after he saw her in another house and this time she had no sixpence to change. The theatre & music hall have not improved matters, but they do not seem to have made a great change in the amount of drinking. He has often stood and looked at the rows of respectable working people waiting to get in. The tradesmen (pub & coffee house) complain that these establishments are no good ~~to~~ to them. An Italian cafe gains something but Mr B. thinks he is the only one.

The Churches are not so active as he would like to see them and there is not much to choose between them. St James's Hatcham is the most influential. None are doing so well as years ago except St James's.

St John's has a mission in Harlow Street. The church ~~has~~ gone down because the district was divided. St Peter's + Emmanuel both draw from it. The district has also declined socially.

Mr Sabine Read's church (High St Cong) was very influential when Mr B. came. The people flock to Lewisham High Road (Rev Justin Evans) because they 'get better served'. Mr Evans is perhaps the most active in the district.

Wesleyans used to be in the Building in many Ave Bldgs, now used by the Salvation Army since that they have built four places e.g. Brockley, New Cross Road, Lower Road and Kitto Road.

Salvation Army did well at first but have dropped off - owing Mr B. says to the pressure of financial difficulties + disagreements.

Roman Catholics are mostly Irish but have made some headway with the English. Get their place filled on Sunday morning. Their schools are a great burden to them.

Speaking generally, Mr Baxter thinks that the churches ^{collectively} have made great advances during the time he has been at Deptford.

Thus in the Church of England there were only four clergymen in the district: -

- (1) Canon Mundy, St John's.
- Mr Finch . St Pauls
- Dr Skerrettley St Nicholas
- Mr flaville St James.

Now there are 24 clergy. etc.

St Pauls (3), St Nicholas (2), St Luke (3), St John (3), St Peter (1)
 St James (5) All Saints (3), St Catharine (2) & St Marks (1?) or 2.

A similar state of things is found with the non-
 conb. who have multiplied their places of worship.
 and the L.C.M. now 10 as against 6 missionaries
 in the district.

Notwithstanding this the people don't seem to
 move. Indifference to real spiritual work is
 general. The men take an interest in racing,
 betting and things of that description. All the pubs.
 take the sporting papers and you see them poring
 over the racing lists.

There is much bad language but its character
 has changed. Do not hear so many oaths
 - D. - &c but more filthy & and obscene
 expressions and this from women and
 children as well as men.

You are asking me a question.

Mr. Pleydell has been there 6 years coming from the Marsh Lane School in Woolwich. Mr. Hicks has been here some time longer.

The area from which children are drawn is bounded on the North by the river, on the E by Church Street, on the S by the Railway ~~station~~ on the W by Norman Rd. Almost without exception poor. The worst street is Swan St & the courts off it (16 St) Cloamant St, York St, Wood Wharf & courts on both sides of Church Street were also mentioned as providing the poorest children. St. Peter's Church school is the only other which caters for the poorest in this area. Randall Place has about 400 top

9 400 girls. St. Peter's school 'held in an ^{3^d} ~~2^d~~ old chapel'. Has perhaps 200. 'If anything they wd. be slightly better off than the 16th school but there isn't much to choose.

The parents are nearly all labourers: very few artisans mostly in gas works, riverside, coal cuts, a few railway men. None hostile to school.

No child stays longer than 14, & very few indeed over 13. Money too much wanted at home. Mothers with many children expect for them to take it in turn to miss school. Mr. P. got out a return two ^{or} years ago of those who were employed out of school hours. in this list Paper Boys were returned as being at work 30 to 39 hours a week. - shop boy 34 hrs, 'general' boy 30 hrs, & a Barber's

61
Barber's Boy 36 hours: I saw none with
Cinger hours. From this they ran down to 4-8
hours per week.

It is a noted school for truants: used to be
very bad: when Mr P came there were 60
boys returned as receiving truants. Now
he has about 12. Temptation of Deptford
Creek, River, Greenwich Park, especially
in summer. Attendance officers almost constantly
employed in this neighborhood. But the
irregularity nothing to what it was when
Mr. P was here as quite a young man -
School was taken over by the LSB in 1874
came to new premises in 1878. Last enlarge-
-ment made in 1889. Now the children of
parents who have been at the school are
coming. This accounts for greater regularity

& absence of hostility. 5
 What is the most important thing learnt
 by a child at school? Both Mr. P & Mr. H
 said 'Self-respect'. Boots & clothes are
 provided by the Blackheath Road School
 & also by the police-magistrate out of the
 poor box; but for the latter you have to
 have a good record for regular attendance.
 Not enough for master to say 'fairly regular'
 he must certify to the number of times
 attended in the last 8 weeks.

No Foot ball, no cricket, no uniform
 connected with the school; but Mr. P
 has started a swimming club which is
 successful. ~~With~~ The foot-ball club that
 once existed fell through owing to the
 interfe.

65
interference of ^{outside} day-work with the Saturday
matches. Plenty of playgrounds near school
in St. Alphages Old Burial Ground & Greenich
Park. In principle Mr. P does nothing with
his boys out of school. 'Plenty of work' without
that. Does not visit parents except excep-
tionally. There are attendance officers for that
There is a night school but Mr. P lets them
manage it entirely.

There are many more poor round Randall
Place than round Old Woolwich Road
School & there are prob. a greater
number of the casual class to deal
with. but nothing could be greater than
the difference between the methods of
Mr. Pleydell & those of Mr. Wagskaffe. The

The class of boys I saw in the playground 7. looked no poorer than those at Old Woolerch Road.

Her attendance is 85%. After Whit Monday it fell to 50% but had come back to normal by the Thursday.

Mr. P. makes great use of the medal ⁸ prize system in encouraging regularity. ^{last year} 46 medals. Once, one week, one class had a perfect week but the whole school has never approached it.

'Too much sporadic sickness in a district like this' - in 1894 8 of diphtheria, 4 typhoid

& 9 scarlet fever among children - in 1896. 2 typhoid, 21 scarlet, 20 diphth, 2 enteric -

Except of measles there are no epidemics - Dist is healthy when you consider its houses &c

69
Dr. Hart the medical officer says that if
by rights every house between the school
& the river should be pulled down.

Penny Bank is very successful. 200 boys
249 girls. connected with Post-Office
Savings bank. The money drawn out
is not spent during treats or on
clothes.

Mrs. Hicks says the ~~children~~ girls are much
more regular than the boys, more docile,
like coming to school, never play truant,
& but a horrid little story tells: 'This
is their worst vice. Boys are more truth-
ful. Both are honest. Great stress laid
on honesty. Mrs. H has never had to pay
for

71
for stolen school property - 'Very different'
'she said, to some schools'.

Both girls stop choose their schools to
some extent. This one is noted for being
a poor class so that the better off will
not go as far as Royal Hill or Black-
heath Road.

Girls generally become domestic servant.
All Greenwich & Blackheath supplied.
No counter attractions in the shape of
Factory work - Tin factory in ~~Greenwich~~ ^{Deptford}
beginning to draw away some - Girls want
their evenings free - greater independence
sought. ~~Price~~ ^{Prices} of servants rising - Two
years ago at the age of 14 the usual
way

wage was 1/6 per wk with board: ¹⁰
now no girl will go for less than 2/6.

Both said the school was a greater in-
fluence for good than any other religious
or social effort in the District.
'Drink is the great curse of the District.'

Neither were particularly glad to see me
but both will answer my ^{question} written
in paper.

July 12.

Greenwich. Muscell
46
4
S.H.S

Interview with Mr. G.R. Wagstaffe. Headmaster
of the Board School in the Old Woolwich
Road.

This school draws from the poorest streets in
East Greenwich & used to be a noted place
for truants. The class of boy is low. The
parents indifferent to schooling & the opportunities
for truancy, with the River on one side &
the Heath on the other, exceptional.

Mr. Wagstaffe is a vigorous young man between
35 & 40. married. Has been here 2 1/2 years.
short curly hair, brisk manner, middle height
well. knit; He came here from a well-to-do
180

B^d. School in the Blackheath Road.

2

The number of boys now on the roll is 240. In 1898 it was 202. The percentage of attendance for the month was 85.7. Ten years ago it was between 81-87%. Now the percentage varies between 92 & 95% except after a Bank Holiday. After Whit Monday last the attendance fell from 94% to 85%, & it has taken a whole month to work it up again. Give them another holiday not a Bank Holiday says Mr W. The Disorgan. is greater when every body is doing nothing at the same time. The

77

The problem before him was when he came was ^{3.}
to stop truancy - 20 truant were common then.
& to increase attendance.

He studied his clientele & decided that they
could only be attracted through their
muscles. They were rough active boys, in-
tolerant of anything in the shape of
restraint or compulsion. The parents were
either indifferent or disliked the idea that
their children shd be made to do anything
that was not an order from themselves.

Gymnasium & games have been the
first causes of his success - He gives special
attention to cricket, football & swimming.
It is the ambition of every boy to represent his

his school at one or the other -
 matches every Saturday; each XI has
 special colours & every member a bag
 containing cap, coat, shirt, knickerbockers
 stockings & shoes to take home on Friday
 night, bring back on Monday -
 Mr W thinks that others are apt to
 underrate the value of a uniform. He
 notes especially the increase in self respect
 that follows. Ragged boys see that they can
 look like any other boys when well dressed;
 it had never entered their heads before -
 One there is self respect there is the self
 restraint necessary to set up to good
 appear.

appearance. There is also the personal clean.⁵
 -liness that apart from special prowess is
 a sine qua non of wearing the clothes.
 At the outset each boy had to strip
 before Mr. W to show that he was clean,
 now it is no longer necessary.

In a general way he fights filthiness
 by getting the Soc for Prev of Cruelty to
 children to prosecute the parents. He warns
 the boys first but if he repeats the ^{is not kindly made} offense
 the Society prosecutes. Mr. W does not him-
 self appear in Court tho' the Society always
 tries to make him. He feels it wd not do
 for him to appear officially. But the parents
 know well enough that he, Wapstaff, is
 the

6

the Casa causans.

He has managed to reclothe all who needed it by an appeal for old clothes to his old B^l Sch. pupils in the Blackheath Road.

M^r Wraystiffe is at the School before 9 till after 12 & then again from 2 till 4.30 or later.

Boys are easier now to deal with than in earlier days because they come up to him from the Infants school.

All boys leave at 14 - at Blackheath Rd they often stayed on till 15 or 16.

He has started a night-school to keep in touch with old scholars - 391 on roll of whom 79 come - incorporated by the gym. - ka

87
resium. His boys become unskilled &
labourers. either waterside, carmen, or in
the soaperies (Wiltie, Soames) or telegraph
maintenance works. The parents are too
anxious that they sh^d. can immediately
7/- a week ^{extra} is so great a relief to a
poor family.

He has doubled the official length of play
time allowed in the school grounds: from
15 or 10 minutes to $\frac{1}{2}$ hour & 20 min. The
playgrounds are too small: has complained
but sch B^d say it costs too much to extend
them. Now if ever is the opportunity of
extension over the waste ground opened up
by the demolition of cottages at the S.E.
end

end of East street.

Drink. 'no boys get drunk' it is not the custom, nor do boys need the excitement. 'Not the least harm to them in fetching beer'. Their lives are passed so much in an atmosphere of drink that they take absolute - by no notice of it.

Gambling. Increasing he thinks - owing to influence of school teaching. Pitch too serious. 'But they do it as a game, unconscious of the harm in it.'

Loyalty. Spoke highly of their loyalty to him. 'They wd do anything in the world for me, any one of them.'

Parents. Has never been attacked by them. 'But you want tact & decision in dealing with them'

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them: ~~but~~ hostility to compulsory schooling I
is dying out.

Punishment. You cannot thrash these boys into
anything. They have always been whipped
harder by their parents for smaller offenses.
So: that they have no particular feeling
for corporal punishment as something to be
ashamed of.

Mr. W took me round the school rooms -
hour 3^{PM} - temperature 75-77 in the class
rooms which are large rooms with all
windows open. "In Germany," he said, the
schools shut when the temperature reaches
75! All boys were awake. Two were
standing out because they fell asleep.
one had been strawberry picking at Kid
brook

Kidbrooke last night between 2.30 & 7.30 ^{10.}
& after 1 1/2 hours sleep had to come to school.

An especially good lesson being given on
natural science on the Socratic system -
all question and answer leading from one
point to another. Every boy eager to answer
throwing their hand up & leaning forward.
The subject. 'The effect of friction.'

July. 12. 1900.

Greenwich. ^{Miscell}
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S.H.D.

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Interview with Mr. J.S. Greenwood of 17
Annandale Rd. E. Greenwich.

Mr. Greenwood is an old man of 65 + the
most active of the managers of the old
Woolwich Rd. School Board of which
Mr. Wagstaffe is the head.

Mr. Greenwood was interviewed at his own
special request. He has white hair &
beard, fresh black felt hat, frock coat
& looks like a noncon minister - He holds
your hand for nearly a minute when
he shakes it with soft warm moist
pressure

pressure: he runs & haws & can hardly deliver²
 himself of a syllable under a minute -
 He talked for nearly an hour but I could
 not get much out of him about the district.
 He used to be head of a congregationalist
 church in Somers Town. At that time he
 lived in Highgate which he considers a
 healthier place than E Greenwich -
 He used to be in business in Paternoster Row
 under Starcham a publisher. He still is
 in some business but has much leisure
 which he devotes to school children
 & mission work among the riverside labour-
 -ers. His eldest son is on the Stock Exchange
 & his second son is a congregationalist minister

99
minister outside Chicago^{USA} - last year he³
gave up his sitting at a cong. ch. in Springfield
because he felt that he was more of a
unitarian than a congregationalist. He is a
follower of Dr. Martineau in that he con-
-ceives religion to be the conscious personal
relationship of the human with the divine
Being. He believes in Christ but not that
Jesus born of a virgin. He does not believe
in all the Bible. He would worship
in any church if only in order to be sur-
-tured & keep alive that tender little plant
of reverence which exists in everyone - as
Wendell Holmes put it. but 'not in a
ritualist or Roman church' because he

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4
he cannot stand "their superstition
about transubstantiation."

In books he is fond of Ruskin, Huxley
& Dr. Martineau. He deplored the want
of honesty, charity & tolerance in the
leaders of religious thought & said that
it was as noticeable in the Free Churches
as in the Established Church - 'except
for Brooke Lambert, a charming man, who
cannot be said to belong to any church
as far as dogma goes.'

He speaks often in public. The one reform
that is nearest his heart is Pensions for
the old. 'How do more gold than any other
measure: of all proposals he considers C.B.'s
the

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the best. 'Tell him from me to make the 5
age 60 & stick to it.' He was much pleased
when I promised to send him 'Old age pensions
& the aged poor!'

Mr. Greenwood chief power is with men &
children. 'I get at the men by chumming
up with them, speaking straight & avoiding
humbug.' He brings them to the evening
school. gets all ages from 14 to 35.
The school hall is converted into a
gymnasium - The men are attracted by
the gym & some will stay on to learn
arithmetic - He has got 391 names on
the evening school list & of these there
is an average attendance of 75. With
the

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The children Mr. G's line is to encourage⁶
reverence respect & good manners as
their outward sign. Not for their
Bible teaching but for their encourage-
ment of good behavior does he
commend Sunday schools - as more than
sufficient justification of their existence.

Mr. G is an earnest & vigorous
minded old gentleman but he takes a
mighty long time to express himself.

Oct. 16. 1900.

Dist 48.

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G.H.D

Interview with Mr. C. H. Grinling at 37
Rectory Place Woolwich.

I went to see Mr. Grinling as Secretary
of the Woolwich, Plumstead & Charlton
Nursing Association: but as will be seen
below he is a good deal more than that.

Mr. Grinling is ^{about} between 35 ~~40~~: middle
height: clean shaven, large ears, dark,
ugly with rather a charming expression.
Keen, convinced, talks very fast & fluent.
ly with a pleasant voice: wears wearing

a flannel shirt red tie & knickerbocker.²
 On his table a brochure on Fabianism
 & the Empire: a piano at one end of
 the room: photos of pictures by Watts
 & Italian madonnas. Sketches by budding
 artists over his mantelpiece & a Tanagra
 figure. Over his writing table where
 photos of Ibsen, Walt Whitman & Tolstoy
 "The three prophets of the nineteenth
 century" he called them: "the only men
 who have preached the Gospel in modern
 language & have interpreted it so that it
 may be understood ^{by men of today}. He has worked 12 years
 in Greenwich. Before that he was a church
 of

111
of England parson, but gave it up on the ground³
that his beliefs were not sufficiently orthodox.
'I told the Bishop I would willingly recite
the Apostles creed every day in the year but
that I should not mean by it what my
congregation thought I did.' If he ^(the Bishop) will give
me leave to explain exactly how I interpret
the creed ~~ex~~ to my congregation once a year,
then I could stay. The Bishop thought better
not. Mr G left. 'Had I been a fighter or
a debater I might to have stayed! but those
are not my gifts so I stood aside; never
giving up my churchmanship & perhaps some
day if definitions are altered I may become a
clergyman again; but I hardly expect this at

alteration to come in my time' 4
 On leaving the Church Mr G took up Co's
 work: he was secretary of the Woolwich
 branch. His aim was to 'make things work
 together': to see what there was first
 & then to organize it so as to produce
 effective results & prevent overlapping.
 For this Woolwich is a favourable spot.
 It is out of London: its people are different
 from Londoners: The Arsenal & Dockyard
 make a kernel of stability: steady work
 & steady men - it is not affected by metro-
 politan questions: its population stays or
 comes to stay: in the older part of the Inn
 everyone is a relation of everyone else: In the newer

lower parts of Charlton & Plumstead } 5
those who come mean to remain & a great many
of them buy their own houses.

As Co's secretary Mr G spent his salary in
maintaining 6 secretaries: my own tiny income
was sufficient for myself: we were very

efficient & successful in organizing means
of help. Under him the Woolwich, Plumstead

- & Charlton Nursing Committee was formed:
- & an Invalid Childrens Aid Committee:
- & Pensions Committee: Childrens Country Holiday
- & a Provident Dispensary. His Committee

was to be the center of all charity in
the District, aiming at helping the helpers
of the poor & putting them in touch with
re

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one another - Out of 673 applications made 6
in the report for '93 which he gave me, in
only 99 cases did the applicant come in the
first case to the Committee.

After this Mr. G. took up a strong line on
Pensions: taking Mr. Booth's line: 'he lectured
on it 'Mr Booth came & spoke for me', at a
time when the Co's were fighting on the other
side. The 'Central' accused him of disloyalty
he offered his resignation which was accepted
'It was not Dock's fault, he is a good & honest
man & if he had seen me personally, all
w'd have been explained.' Mr G's committee
were furious; the local doctor sold his horse
& carriage & gave Mr G the money: an opposition
Com

Committee was talked of. Mr G said no that 7
 his function was to make things go smoothly.
 He ask the Central to send down a good man &
 Harold Tojabe came. Mr G worked for two years
 under him to shew there was no hostility on
 his part: then left for work in connection with
 the Arsenal Cooperative Society, Jubilee nurses,
 & University extension. Lanes "good & hard
 -working" succeeded Tojabe but neither
 with only one secretary & only giving half
 time to Woodwich can do as much as
 was done before. Mr G waits: he thinks that
 in a year or two the C.O.S will again fall
 'naturally' into his hands.

As to Church men - Escreet is the best
 of them all, all round: open minded, able
 en.

energetic, a good speaker, carries the thought &
 full section of the ^{higher} working class with him:
Wragge is the ablest of them all intellectually
 has worked under Bennett, but no personal
 charm, but a great power intellectually
 & morally. Hughes shares with Escart the
 greater popularity - good speaker, socialist,
 active - Doherly has been here longest, not
 bad. Lester - a new man with the making
 of a good parson: Ogle the best man
 after Escart all round; Morris: good,
 evangelical: Hanning - old fashioned, a
 good scholar, preaches a narrow gospel;
 gets at all the nice old fashioned men & women,
 people who are very keen about foreign missions but

but only with the greatest difficulty can be 9
 got to give 20% towards the houses they ^{give} \$50 towards
 foreign missions. Meddister. not much -
 of the Noncons. Wilson - out of the way the
 most popular. not a man to touch him for
 congregations. rather narrow theology, hardly
 speech, but suits a certain section of the
 working man down to the ground. Abel
 at Rectory Place Congregational chapel just
 keeps a congregation together is a good man
 but not remarkable: maintains the societies
 started by that most remarkable man
 Vignier who preceded him. 'Jo Vignier is due
 the training of all the best public men in
 Woolwich today.'

Done

None of the ^{English} clergy have their Churches full ei-¹⁰
 -ther morning or evening. They are a great moral
 force & are better men in intellect & training
 than the Noncons but they dont appeal to
 the working classes as a body. Two things pre-
 -vent the success of the Established Church
 with the masses & their education of a
 suspicion that they are not quite sincere
 in the views they profess. The Church is sup-
 posed to hold certain views & is paid condition
 on holding them. Many dont hold those
 views but cant afford to give up the living.
 In consequence there are certain questions on which
 they cannot meet the working man with a
 direct answer. He mistrusts them accordingly.
 Always excepting a certain elite who can make

make allowances for circumstances & with " these men the Church is more successful than the Noncons ' witness the congregations of Everett, Ogden & Morris.' In spite of this suspicion of insincerity the Church wd have larger congregations if it could descend to the "perfidious eloquence & claptrap of the ordinary noncon." with its narrow gospel, intolerance & denunciation - 'But men brought up like those we have here could never do that.' The working man is ignorant, does not like to be told things in a language he does not understand & is inclined to prefer the women in consequence - Mr G thinks that the future is with the ch of E. C.

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because on the whole the men there take
broader views & look more to the future. But
their views will need gradual modification,
which will come from without I think, from
the teaching & gospel interpretation given
by Tolstoi & Walt Whitman.

As to Colonel Hughes - who is Vestry clerk
& a member of Parliament for Woolwich: is
one of the 'astute' men that ever breathed
on the whole he has done good to Woolwich
because ^{doing} it has tended to enhance the
reputation of Col. Hughes. but where personal
ambition clashes with Public Good the
latter has to give way. Some things are wanted
at that should not be in his & I deplore the
tone set by such a member. Everyone knows that
he

he bribes at Election times but he plays off one ¹³ against another, leads off his accusers on side issues that he cant be caught. 'He can tell you the occupation & interests of everyone of his electors.'

At this point Secret the Rector of St. Mary's came in & joined in the conversation.

Handing. good. The worst of the builders in Num-
-stead are the small men who have been working men themselves: build the worst houses & rack rent the most. There is one notable ex-
-caption who having made his fortune & ret-
-ired still lives in the neighbourhood & spends his money in keeping his property in good order.

Canon Corbett M.P. is a large builder. His policy is to buy estates build houses & sell them outright freehold & all. Hither Green was built & sold in this way. & now he is

is buying down 5000 horses between Plum. ¹⁴
-stead & willing. He builds well & sells for below
£3.400. The small builders cannot compete with
him in price.

There are a few slummy spots in Woolwich
but outside Ropeyard Raily etc. Harris Street,
Deer street there is no real crowding or
habituall dirt in Woolwich.

Prostitution. 'a very difficult question & one that
is always coming to the front here.'

The soldiers are bad but it is not only the
soldiers who are to blame said Mr. Cochet.
Arsenal men are like them & married
men as well as single. Neither Mr. Goring
w^d favour licensed houses. Mr. E. recognizes all
the arguments for them: he says that Col. Gates
who has charge of the arrangements for clearing
the

the Common at last confesses with sorrow ¹⁵
 that he is almost in favour of them, having told
 Mr. E. that the only thing that has kept him
 from pronouncing for them is a feeling that
 'it can't be right to facilitate the doing
 of what is wrong': this is also Mr. Escreet's
 view. The question is whether it is a greater
 wrong to leave things as they are: damage fr.
 -ture generations etc. Mr. Escreet w^d not pro-
 -nounce definitely against, having been
 shaken by Col. Yates who is "an very
 religious man of an evangelical turn of
 mind". Goring is definitely against on
 the ground that public pronouncements &
 legislation must set up an ideal & raise tone:
 to allow licensed houses w^d be to lower moral
 tone

we react on private morals

Core: Grinby said that the ideal was that 16. Sexual connection shd only be for the reproduction of the species. Recognize the pleasure. Eating is a pleasure. Eat to live, not for eating's sake: + he applied it to the relation of the sexes. Escreet said encourage early marriages but advised that marriage was getting later especially among the fairly comfortable.

The women who come to Woolwich are for the most part middle aged, have been at the business for many years. They dont like young women to take it up, saying that it is no business for them. Four or five of the younger women in ^{provincial} our homes have been sent up there by the older prostitutes. Said Escreet.

Mr. Grinby

Printing then gave me a batch of printed 7.
matters [which I have placed with the material
for Dist 48] with short comments.

Pamphlet - 1.

- 1. Aims & work of the C.O.S in Charlton
Plumstead & Woolwich.

"Charity organization stands for two ideals - the
ideal of individuality & the ideal of associ-
-ation..... The one is the gospel of character, the
other the gospel of brotherhood."..... "Love
must be the link between the giver & the
receiver."..... 'Persistence of personal friendship
as a keynote of charity.'

- 2) Woolwich Plumstead & Charlton Nursing
Association:

Started by the C.O.S. ^{in 1891} now on its own legs -
In the year 1891. it had 1 Nurse; money
raised

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raised was £103 : Money spent £84 : 18

& clubs & societies gave £7. in 1899 -

5 Nurses : £468 raised : £488 spent : £10 given by 66

clubs & societies : Churches, chapel, societies,
trade & friendly, & individuals all contribute

willingly : he was reckoned on an annual in-
come of £500 - As a Queens Diamond Jubilee

Memorial nearly £2500 was raised with which

two houses were bought freehold where

the nurses live, in Nightingale Place.

The nurses are ladies, paid a little higher than

the minimum rate of head masters in order

to get the pick. When they first started

chronic cases were the most usual; now

there are more surgical cases. Not that there

are not just as many chronic cases in the dis.

district, but the nurses have taught those in charge how they shd look after the infirm & how they can manage by themselves: "The aim of all my work is to teach."

3. Provident Dispensary.

formed by to secure on cooperative & provident principles, efficient medical attendance & medicine for the working classes & all other persons who, though unable to pay ordinary medical fees, yet do not desire to seek or are not justified in seeking charitable aid.

Single cards 6d } per month.
Family . 10d }

In return members select an doctor from medical staff who will attend & provide medicine free.

Mr. Grimling's idea of a provident dispensary in connection with the C.O.S was to get rid of the

the abuse of hospital letters & outpatients 20
 Department. Stop. letters were never given until
 the applicant had been examined by the Dispensary
 Doctor. On his advice letters were given to special
 hospitals. Many applicants are much better
 treated locally & many saved the risks & cost
 of waiting in the outpatients department. The
 effect was to reduce greatly the demand for
 hospital letters.

4. Invalid Childrens Aid Association.

To
 "Every ~~visitor~~ invalid child is attached a visitor
 who becomes a friend & reports when occasion
 arises for hospital or convalescent treatment
 for surgical appliances or for country air"

1893.	118 children :	28 visitors.
95.	174	26 —
99.	154	?

5. Woolwich & Plumstead Children's Happy Evening Association.

"The Happy Evening Association knows of very few really 'naughty' children: but it knows a great many whose 'dear papas are poor'.

Helpers met weekly to learn kinder garden games.

Appeal for helpers: small number of helpers & large number of children to be entertained.

6. University Extension:

Lectures started in 1897.

Proceeding from Pioneer teaching to continuity of teaching: then to widening of teaching field: from a single course of lectures to four - on History, Literature, Economics & Science: spending £293 with a deficit of £24. (vid pamphlets written by Grinting) Mr

Mr. Grinting gave also.

Report of Woolwich Polytechnic.

Prospectus & Time table for the session. 1899-1900.

Leaflet on Does Philanthropy prevent or perpetuate poverty.

"Philanthropy the love of men: where love is, there is Progress."

Comradship. Nos. 1 & 2. it is the journal of the Royal Arsenal Coop Society.

no. p. 9. of no 1. for the Vocational Societies in Woolwich.

no p. 7. for the Botall Farm experiment of the Coop Soc.

Pamphlet of the Woolwich Dist Trades & Labour Council: on the Borough of Woolwich & the Housing Question.

Argument that the Borough of Woolwich should buy land & let houses. In this case

In connection it shd be remembered that
 the Coop Soc. have just (Oct. 16th) laid down
 4000 houses on the Postal Estate. while
 Cameron Cobeth MP according to Mr. Secret
 is to build 5000 between Plumstead & Helling.
 Pamphlet of Royal Arsenal Coop. Soc. Edu-
 -cational Dept. setting for the 'invaluable
 educational opportunities offered by the Evening
 Continuation Schools of the District.'

All the Report of the Special Committee of Inquiry
 on Education, appointed by the Woolwich
 Cooperative Congress. 1896.

All the above have been put into the
 material for Dist 48.

This is a long rambling interview but Mr
 Grim.

Grimling is rather an exceptional man. 24
 Though poor he gave up the Church & the C.O.'s
 Secretaryship for conscience sake: & stranger
 still continued to work actively & amicably
 with both. He seems to have a knack of making
 all sorts pull together. And if his ideals don't
 run him ahead of his experience will probably
 continue to do an immense amount of practical
 good until he dies when his ^{name} will be added to
 the splendid list of forgotten benefactors -

Mr. Grimling said he spent 3 months at the Paris
 Exhibition where gave 6 lectures on C.B.'s map,
 he is keen on pensions, & at any time wd
 be glad to help Mr. Dothie's work.

Report of interview with Mr. C.P.Larner, Secretary
of the Woolwich C.O.S. Committee, at the Offices, 1 Brew-
er Street. (E.A.) Oct. 17.00.

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1.*

Mr. Larner has been at Woolwich for four years, coming there from Bermendsey, and following Mr. Toynbee after the latter's eighteen months' tenure of a position that had been made difficult owing to differences ~~exist~~ between Grinling, the former Sec., and the Central Office of the Society. This difficulty with Grinling is now a matter of ancient history, and he is at present an ordinary member of the Executive Committee.

I began by asking Mr. Larner as to the position of his Committee, and the extent to which it secured the co-operation of the local clergy etc. He professed himself very fairly satisfied, admitting that with the Noncons, they had not enough communication, but that with all the parishes, except two, co-operation was active, and that in only one case could relations be considered as unfriendly. Relations with the Noncons had been weakened by the departure from the district of a Wesleyan, who had been their Vice-President, but who had been succeeded by a man who did not see things quite in the same light. The removal of the influence of one strong man made itself felt, especially as the other strong man in the district among the Noncons was held aloof. This was Mr. J. Wilson, the Baptist, who, in Mr.

Larner's private opinion was a fraud. Mr. L. admitted that Mr. W. was probably a sincere evangelical, but thought that his first business was to fill his Tabernacle, and that in order to do this he played to the Protestant gallery unfairly by attacking a man like Escreet. Mr. Wilson has, said Mr. Larner, been long ~~enough~~ enough in Woolwich to know that Mr. Escreet, ~~high~~ is not only a High Churchman, but a very honourable gentleman, and that to attack him as though he were an emissary of the Pope ~~and a danger to society in disguise~~. However, the Noncons. generally, including Mr. Wilson, so far as their charitable work is concerned, confine themselves mainly to the relief of their own poor members. They are not lavish or sensational givers, though what they might be tempted to do should a severe season come, Mr. Larner was not prepared to say. He had no great faith in the soundness of their charitable principles.

In addition to the Noncon. churches, there are a considerable number of Missions. "As I dare say you know wherever you have a lot of Army men, you are sure to find a certain number of religious cranks", and to a great extent, these Missions in Woolwich are supported, and even run, by such men. For the most part, however,

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they are not very important, from the charitable point of view, the chief exception being The Cage Lane Mission in Plumstead. This is very active, under the direction of a Mrs. Anderson, herself the widow of a military man who secures a considerable amount of support from people of her class. She constantly refers cases to the C. O. S. but appears to have her own methods of relief, and to act often in a way that does not commend itself to the Committee at Brewer St.

As regards the clergy, the two ~~xxxxxxxx~~ parishes mentioned as holding aloof were those of Holy Trinity (Charlton) and S. Nicholas. In the latter case the Vicar Mr. McAlister, is said to be personally friendly, but simply not to work his parish. He is callous, and ~~xx~~ may be considered to have simply given it up. He had a brother a few years back at a neighbouring church, and the McAlister reputation in the district appears to be somewhat tarnished, in any case from the Church and the C. O. S. points ~~xxxxxxxx~~ of view.

Mr. Evans, of Holy Trinity, was, however, the only man of whom Mr. Larner spoke with real severity, and of him, I regret to say, ~~he~~ he seemed to have a very poor opinion. Face to face he is a very "plausible" man, but after a certain amount of shilly shally Mr. Larner

Has obtained the definite statement that Mr. Evans wish to have nothing to do with the Society. At this Mr. L. may be said to be pleased, as he has made up his mind not to have anything more to do with Mr. Evans, who he thinks stands convicted of a misstatement with regard to some case (either he or Mrs. Evans dies) and he also thinks that there is cumulative evidence that he uses his clerical position "in a very immoral way" meaning by this that the receipt of relief is made contingent on some kind of religious response. According to Mr. L. Mr. Evans may be set down as a narrow, unwise, and unreliable man.

Going through the other names of the clergy in the district covered by the committee, Earner commented as follows:

Mr. Shephard: queer; inactive; but, above all, old-fashioned. Has married a second wife, who is mainly occupied in looking after a somewhat rapidly increasing family.

Escreet: "You know all about". Mr. E. is the Chairman of the committee, and is a gentleman that every one trusts. It is largely due to his influence that the position of the committee is as strong as it is.

Lester: a new man; settling down; liked.

(5)

Johnstone (S. Michael's): new man; very nice; active, with a good worker in his wife.

Wragge: one ^{of those} who work~~w~~ closest in with us; always in and out.

Ogle (S. Margaret's): hard worker; good man.

Latham (S. Mark's): very poor district; works well with the Committee.

Doherty (S. John's): the main complaint here was of a lack of method in work. Probably he does not answer his letters.

Morris (All Saints): very nice man; very weak; little control over his visitors; rather a relief-by-ticket man.

Dr. Hughes: a strong man, but uncertain. Blows hot and cold.

Douglas-Hamilton: (S. Paul's, Charlton): rather of the Morris type.

Swainson: all right, ~~xxxx~~ but unimportant from the C.O.S. point of view. His people well-to-do.

Christ Church, Shooters' Hill: also well-to-do.

With the Roman Catholics the Committee is in close touch, largely ^rthrough Col. Ingram, a member of their C Committee, and himself a Roman Catholic. Colonel I. has

Just become the Treasurer of the Cttee, in succession to Capt. Adair, resigned. In spite of the screwing up of the R.Cs. to wise giving by Col Ingram, Mr. Larner ^{charity} thought that the private ~~administration~~ of the priests was lax. He said, however, that they were very poor as a corporation, and that therefore they could not give very much. He praised Father Reeks, the late Rector, highly on personal grounds, saying that he had been immensely popular and that his funeral in the summer had been, perhaps, one of the most largely attended ever held in Woolwich.

In addition to the personnel of the Woolwich Committee there is a considerable amount of evidence of the valuable character of its work and of the esteem in which it is held. Instances of this were cited in the help that had been given to the Goldsmiths' Company in the administration of one of their pension funds, in which candidates were finally chosen from a list of cases recommended by the C.O.S.; and in the administration of the Wolseley Fund.

A feature of the work of the Committee is the number of cases that come before them of men who have been in the Army and in dealing with these the military members of the committee are of special help.

Mr. Larner spoke of the exceptionally prosperous time that Woolwich has been enjoying, and the point is referred to in the last ^{published} report. ^(A new one - probably done) The number of cases dealt with during the last year has shown a marked decline, and Mr. L. says that the amount of money put into the various ~~saving~~ thrift agencies has undoubtedly increased. On the other hand there has been a good deal more drinking. This ~~fact~~ is true, not only of many of the men who have been earning so much, but of the women whose husbands are at the front. Mr. L. quite endorses the opinion that many of these have never been so well off in their lives, and shewed me particulars of a case that had just come in. It was of a woman who wanted help in buying new teeth. She was the husband of a man who had been called out for active service in S. Africa, and who before had been working at the Arsenal at a ~~22~~ 24/- a week rating. When he left he was probably earning ^{was over time} about 28/-, but allowance to the wife is half of the rating, that is 12/-. That, I understood, is paid by the Arsenal, but in addition she would be getting the Government allowance of 1/1 per day for herself, and 2d. for each of her three children, or 11/1 a week. Also, an "allotment" from the man's own pay of 10d. a day, or 5/10 a week. Finally, there is an Employees' Fund, voluntarily subscribed by the men. Originally this came to

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About 10/- a week, but it has fallen somewhat and now stands at about 6/-. The women would thus be getting in all about 34/11 a week, instead of whatever her husband might have allowed her out of his 28/-, and she has no husband to provide for. Mr. L. said that this ~~was~~ was not an unfair sample of the position of the women left behind in ~~Woolwich~~ Woolwich, and one consequence has been a marked increase in the amount of intemperance among them, for they have never been so well off in their lives. It is mainly to this fact, and to the spectacle that the men have had of a good many of these women taking too much that is said to have led to the decline in the contributions of the employees to their own voluntary fund.

Among the thrift agencies that are especially strong in Woolwich, in addition to the Post Office and the great Co-operative Society, are the Building Societies, the largest of which is the Equitable. The contribution have been to these ~~xxx~~, Mr. Lerner knows, considerably greater during the last few years. The considerable nucleus of Arsenal men, whose earnings are good and whose employment is permanent, to some extent explain the importance of the Building Societies in Woolwich. In one of its

many ramifications the Co-operative Society is a great Building Society, and at the present moment they are beginning the development of an estate that was secured two or three years ago, called, I think, the Abbey Fields, to the east of Plumsxtead and just within the London boundary, on which it is proposed to build no fewer than 2000 houses, at the rate of about 100 ^{houses} a year. The purchase and impending development of this estate is only one of the many signs of the bold management of this, the only great London Co-operative Society, and the Agent of the C.O.S. Ctee. who was called in to see me and who is a member of the Society, mentioned the ^{another in} fact that they were ^{generally} ~~ahead~~ in advance of population in planting out their new branches. Of these they have about nine at the present time, and in several cases these have been planted down in districts before many houses have been built. Thus, as the people come they find the Stores ready for them, and custom is practically ensured. At the present time the membership of the Soc. is steadily increasing, but their dividend is high (for London) and stands at 1/11. The agent complained that the vast majority of the members thought more about this than about anything else, and that in this, as in so many of the Societies, the principles of Co-operation counted for very little. But the fact remains that the

Society is much more than a successful business and Mr. Barner agreed that co-operation entered into ~~xxxxxxx~~ the structure of life in Woolwich and the neighbourhood in a way that was unique in London, and that it deserved "some trouble" as a subject of inquiry. It is an important local "influence".

The agent noted the fact that not only is the Society strengthened by the presence of a large body of working-men employed at a single great concern like the Arsenal, among whom local opinion and local knowledge easily spread, but also by the presence among the Arsenal hands of large numbers of north-countrymen, who know all about co-operation. Thus, one part of Plumstead is spoken of as "Little Nottingham" because of the colony of Nottingham men who have collected there. "If a branch of the Stores were planted down in North Woolwich it would be in the middle of an ordinary London population, and would as likely as not prove a failure." Mr. L. agreed that the local competition of the ordinary retailers was not so strong as it is in more central London, but said that the local shops were not to be ignored; many have sprung up, ~~and~~ a branch of Lipton's among them, but the Co-operative Soc. still forges ahead.

The HOUSING problem was said to be as pressing in Woolwich as perhaps anywhere in London, owing largely to the expansion of the Arsenal; to the impossibility of building any more in Woolwich itself; and to unsatisfactory means of locomotion to outlying parts. Except as regards certain well defined and limited areas the problem presents itself as one of accommodation rather than of sanitation. ^{and overcrowding} In Plumstead, for instance, in spite of the immensely keen demand for houses, satisfactory conditions prevail, save in a considerable part of S. Mark's parish. Here shabby houses have been put up, and the district is clearly marked out as a bad plum of the future. It is already decidedly poor. In Plumstead, as a whole, sanitary administration is good, largely owing to Dr. Davies, its excellent Medical Officer, who is a member of the C.O.S. executive. In Woolwich Mr. Larnet considered that administration was not so good. Rents are high, and during the last four or five years were thought to have gone up as much as anywhere in London, save in some of the quite central parts. Single rooms range from 3/- to 4/-; and ~~double~~ ^{two} from 5/- to 6/-. A large number of Woolwich employees have to live at a distance, many at Deptford, and at certain hours in the day the trains are packed seventeen

or so to the compartment, irrespective of class.

Something was said about the moral question, and Mr. L. agreed that the lowest class of prostitute found in Woolwich is as low as can be found anywhere. Acts of public indecency are not uncommon charges, and recently when a case called him to the police court, several of these came on. ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ The usual penalty was five shillings or three days. In only one case had the man been caught, and then he was a young soldier, "hardly more than seventeen, I should think, and the woman, an awful creature, must have been nearly fifty". These very low class women go, he thinks, with the privates. "I don't suppose that an ordinary Arseant hand would look at them, but the fact is that Tommy can't pay." In general, however, things have considerably improved in recent years, and the stricter management of things at the Academy, and the presence of commanding officers who are careful about these general questions affecting the welfare of the men, ^{of all ranks} has been decidedly beneficial. "Officers have told me of the kind of places that were open when they were ^{twenty years ago} subalterns, and of the things that went on that are almost incredible now."

But La Question morale is still important, and is at the present time exercising the minds of the clergy and others. Only the night before my visit a meeting fo

its consideration had been held, but Larner himself had not been able to go. It appears that one of the laxities to which attention is at the moment being attracted is the behaviour of a good many of the women "left behind" against whom ~~xxxxx~~ irregularities, not only in excessive drinking but morals, are being charged. It appears that some time back the unpleasant question of the debauching of boys by men in the Arsenal came to the front on certain specific charges, and L. ~~xxxx~~ sees signs that this matter is coming up again. It would appear that the moral tone, as well as the religious attitude of many of the men working at this great establishment leaves much to be desired.

The Woolwich Charities have now been nearly all pooled, owing largely to Mr. Escreet's action, and are now, with this one exception (which was a quite modern foundation and was therefore left untouched), used as pensions. Mr. L. does not think that any considerable misuse of the Charities is now possible.

Poor Law administration appears to be of an average kind, with a certain amount of out-door relief given, but not excessive. Both L. and the agent, who sees the R.Os. every week, agreed that this form of relief had been given more easily during the last few months,

REPORT.

FOR THE YEAR 1898-99.

IN presenting their Annual Report the Woolwich Committee of the Charity Organisation Society have to record a year of quiet, but, they hope, satisfactory work. The period has been marked by a mild winter and good and regular employment, both in the Royal Arsenal and in the various trades in the neighbourhood. This state of things has shown its natural mark in the number of applications made to the Committee for assistance, the number being thirty fewer than in the preceding twelve months. In fact there is no doubt that during the latter half of the year the district of Woolwich has been in an abnormally prosperous condition, mainly, of course, due to the unusual activity at the Arsenal, and if applications for relief at any centre such as the Charity Organisation Committee had not shown a decrease, it would have reflected very unfavourably on the wage-earning population.

The Committee have endeavoured to keep before them the object for which the Society was founded—namely that it is primarily an organising society; and that their first duty is to fulfil this function. They have not, nor are they likely to have, the intention of supplanting the various relief agencies which abound, but they believe that these agencies can be increased in strength and usefulness a hundredfold if system, order and method really obtain. It is the aim of the Committee, so far as may be, to be a link between the various charitable institutions, whether lay or clerical, and to assist in every way possible in developing what exists, rather than in creating new ones. They are, therefore, always most willing to be consulted by any bonâ fide charitable societies. They are glad to give the advice which many years of work in the district warrants them in giving, and it is a matter, they think, for some congratulation that the last two or three years have shown a marked desire on the part of some important charitable agencies to take advantage of the Committee's knowledge and experience.

Though as stated the applications for relief have been fewer than in the previous year, yet they numbered 463: of these the Committee have seen their way to help in 206 cases and they believe that the assistance they have been enabled to give has been such as the circumstances demanded.

(14)

a change that was partly attributed to the approaching elections of next March, and partly, by Mr. L., to the effects of what he considered Mr. Chaplin's very ill-
last
advised circular of ~~ixt~~ June.

Mr. Larner is a man of about 45, and is one of the most capable, level-headed and efficient of the C.O.S. staff secretaries.

Oct. 18th 1900

District 48

G.A.

Interview with Mrs ^{Mrs} Harbour, 204 Eglinton
Road, Plumstead.

Mrs Harbour is a tall, well dressed, educated lady of mature age, with a musical voice and charming manner. She mentioned incidentally that she had known Plumstead for 25 years. She lives in a fairly good house on the top of the hill overlooking Plumstead. She is an active member of the Woolwich & Board of Guardians and her husband is on the Plumstead Vestry.

We plunged at once into the subject of Poor Law Administration. Mrs H. does not think the Guardians have a tendency to stringency in granting out relief. The practice of granting O.R. is not uniform in the Union. It depends very much on the Ward Relief Committee. The R.O.'s also have much power and many of the guardians would be guided entirely by them. Mrs Harbour makes a point of visiting every person receiving out relief in her ward and they try to act up to the L.G.B.'s recent circular and make the relief adequate. All cases should be visited, if possible by a woman,

woman, who can go where a man could not and make inquiries.

Once in six months the O. R. list is overhauled. On these occasions, the recipient, if able, must appear before the Board of Guardians. Before this overhaul, each guardian is given a list printed list of the cases in his district. Mrs H. showed me a copy of this sheet for her district (West Plumstead) It contained the names, amount of relief, relations, other sources of income &c. Mrs H had gone over this sheet and marked against each case the net income after allowing for rent. In dealing with these cases, you can generally reckon that there is a little more than is disclosed. Now and again an applicant makes a complete statement.

Occasionally O. R. cases are ordered into the house. These are cases where drink is known or suspected or where, through feebleness or other cause, it is believed the house would be better for the person. Drink constantly comes up as a cause of pauperism and even guardians, who are opposed to temperance work will lecture the applicants. This is rather amusing to Mrs H., who is an ardent temperance worker.

As to Indoor Relief the policy is to make the Not-Able Bodied as comfortable as possible.

A short time ago they tried to classify the ³ inmates in accordance with the L. G. B's circular & Mrs Harbour saw all the women for this purpose.

To classify the inmates then residents was much more difficult than it now is to allocate a person to the right class on entering. The record of character is often lost. They made some mistakes and some feeling of jealousy was created. Some who were not included in the first class, put stories about concerning those who were

In the first class they sought to include all people of decent habits and respectable character. Their privileges are a better furnished room - floor is covered with kamptulicon - ~~tea~~ breakfast & tea is served in the ward instead of in the dining hall with the other inmates and in the case of the women, each has her own teapot and makes her own tea. This concession is greatly prized by the women but the men did not like the trouble and now fetch their tea (ready made) from the dining room. The first class are also allowed to see their friends twice a week and to go out twice a week; the others only once.

At present the ~~distinction~~ separation is only during the day. The Guardians wish ^{to} entirely separate the two classes but cannot do so now owing to insufficient accommodation.

At present no distinctions are made amongst⁴ the Able-Bodied. This is an evil, especially on the women's side. Many of the A. B. women are deserted wives and these are obliged to mix with fallen women.

[The Children - orphan + deserted - are sent to the Sutton Schools. As many as the L. G. B. will allow, are bodied out. Mrs H. favours the Sheffield cottage home system and the general feeling favours that.

Amongst ~~the~~ the old people in the House the Brabazon Scheme has been started and is working satisfactorily. (See circular on next page). It is very useful not only by giving the people something to do but bringing other people into connection with the inmates. "I am so happy now that I have something to do" said one to Mrs H. She showed me a table cover on which red flowers had been worked by a coalheaver. The man began to take orders for the work and this being forbidden he took his discharge + Mrs H. hopes he is now supporting himself. Sales are held every year - the date being a red letter day to the inmates. The goods always realise more than they cost and the

1900.



Brabazon Employment Society.

THE "Brabazon Employment Society" was founded seventeen years ago by the COUNTESS OF MEATH, then LADY BRABAZON. She had in 1880 offered a Grant for materials to any Workhouse or Infirmary that would try her scheme. The offer was not accepted till 1883, and then only by one Workhouse Infirmary, viz., Kensington. At the beginning of 1892 there were but twenty Branches formed, now there are over 200. This shows that the B.E.S. is at last being appreciated. Its object is to give an interest to the lives of that saddest of all sad classes—the non-abled-bodied paupers. These poor people—old, infirm, crippled, blind—are necessarily doomed to perpetual idleness so far as the Workhouse Officials are concerned. The aim of the B.E.S. is to alter this condition of things, by teaching the inmates light and pretty employment, without in any way interfering with the Rules of the House. No inmate can be employed that is **not exempt from work by the Guardians**, and to whom the Matron has not given her permission. The pride the pupils take in gradually producing good, saleable work, soon revives the self-respect lost by years of pauperdom, and the whole tone of the man or woman changes. All help given in teaching the various kinds of work is voluntary.

Each Branch is self-supporting. This is effected by a Yearly Sale, which is held in order to provide money for fresh materials. The surplus (invariably made beyond the amount of the original Grant) is used in various ways for the benefit of the workers. No **payments** of any kind are admissible.

Central Rules, as well as any further information can be obtained of the

CENTRAL ORGANISING SECRETARY B.E.S.,
33, LANCASTER PARK,
RICHMOND, SURREY.

The Profits are used to entertain the inmates (6)
The Convalescents in the Infirmary and the
Not-able Bodied participate in these treats

The general impression gathered from Mrs
H.'s remarks on the Poor Law administration
is that the tendency of the Board is to improve
the conduct of the paupers and that many of
them ^{guardian} do take a real interest in the well being
of their charges. This desire for improved con-
ditions is tempered by the necessity of
keeping the rates down, the result being a
gradual improvement

The Vestry works fairly well. The parties
are more equally divided now than formerly
and the vestry has become more active. A
~~split~~ split has occurred in the Progressive party
and Mrs H. fears its results on the coming
elections. The Labour Party instead of following
the progressive leaders, voted and spoken
against the general prog. policy. This led to
the resignation of Rev. J. Sturges, who was
the leader and Mrs H. also withdrew.

Drinks. Mrs H. is secretary of the British
Women's Temperance Assⁿ for the district.
They hold monthly meetings and gather a
good number of women, who are visited. They
do not however manage to get hold of the women

who are becoming fond of the drink. Beside the members & those they know, possibly only 2 or 3 outsiders will be at the meeting. A drawing room meeting has just been arranged at Col Hughes' house. The Colonel is connected with the Licenced Victuallers Assn & they Mr St. expect they will reach some who do not usually attend temperance meetings. Clubs are a great evil blot - encourage drinking "especially the Radical Club" "I am a Radical & I am sorry to say so". The War has increased drinking - told of a baker and two publicans comparing notes. The bakers trade had declined but both the others had increased their takings. I have a branch of the London Temperance Council here to which most of the Temp. organizations are affiliated.

Religion "Parson Wilson" draws the greatest number. Dr Hughes (St Mark's) gets hold of the working men but he is too straight for many of them. Talks about the clubs and the faults of co-operators & thus alienates some. Many Plymouth Brethren in Plumstead. Mr St. often meets them when canvassing. They do not vote at elections "but they don't mind asking favours of those who are elected".

Much Gambling, mostly associated with football.

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Housing. Difficult to get rooms, especially ¹⁸ if family has children. Had two ^{men} cases before them at the last meeting, who could not obtain rooms. In both cases however there was special causes - One man had no work. The medical officer is a splendid officer but he is not backed up by the Vestry. So many of the Vestry-men are house owners. "That is the trouble".

Some of the Able Bodied paupers are sent to the Salvation Army Farm Colony, the Guardians paying for them. If they come back the Guardians prosecute. Complaints of various kinds were made, the principal one being that the place swarmed in summer. They might almost be run away with. A deputation was sent ~~down~~ to Halstead to investigate and look over the place a few weeks ago. On the whole the scheme has worked well; the men do not come back altho' ~~some~~ many of them do not stay long at the colony.

Oct. 18. 1900.

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S.H.D.

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Interview with

Stephen. Bourne. 5 Lansdowne Road
Blackheath

Ashley. Stables. 38 Wetherly Mansions.
Earls Court Square. S.W.

Colonel. Bourne. late Army Service Corps
7 Deans Road.

Mr. Stephen Bourne & Ashley Stables are
joint honorary secretaries of the National
Vigilance Society. Colonel Bourne is
Secretary of the Church of England White
Cross League for men.

The interview was held in the National Club
No. 1. Whitehall Gardens: ~~which~~ [it is the
only club in London I think which has club
prayer before breakfast]. I went to see Mr
St

Stephen Bourne on the advice of Rev. Mr. Burns
 Lawrence the Vicar of St. Michael's Blackheath
 who said that as an old resident Mr. Bourne
 wd know a great deal about Blackheath
 & as secretary of the National Vigilance Soc
 he wd know & speak with authority about
 prostitution in Blackheath & Woolwich -

Mr. St. Bourne is an old man over sixty.
 Spectacles, white hair & beard, kindly looking
 Father Christmas - But about the most
 reckless man in his statements & accusations
 that ever I interviewed. He runs Temperance
 & National vigilance alongside of one another.
 Belongs to the 'shrieking brotherhood' as
 far as such a naturally kindly old man
 can & probably does a deal of harm to his cause.
 His

His colleague is a tall man with a dark ³ beard, rather nervous, deferring to & not treated as of much account by Stephen. Downe.

Colonel Borne is a shabby looking military man - son of Stephen. Large unkempt moustaches. middle height. but not unpleasant to talk to when his father was called away.

They kept me talking for nearly two hours but I got very little from it. At the end Mr. Stephen Downe said that I sh^d probably want to think over all that he had said & then come to see him again.

The National Vigilance Society's ^{working} members consist of Mr. Downe. Mr. Stables, a detective, a lady worker, & a small home of the Haymarket.

Their object is to prosecute brothels & stamp out

out prostitution

4

As to licensed Brothels or C.D. acts: they
license ^{prostitution} without ~~giving~~ emptying the streets:
no Christian could be in favour the contagious
Diseases acts: if you examine the women
examine the men also, but anything rather
than the examination of the women only."

Prosecution of Brothels - 'not effective' if they
do open again it is not in the same way
if you shut up the places where men ^{come} go to
you make prostitution very much more
difficult.

As to why women take to it. "The temptations are
so great, so much money offered, so little trouble,
only last week I was talking to a woman in
Piccadilly trying to persuade her to give up
her life: her answer was that she was only seeing
14/

144. about in a Regent Street shop, had a blind mother to maintain; when there was not a crust in the house she went ~~of~~ on the streets, & made sums varying from 10/- to £2. When that is spent she goes on the streets again." Mr. Stephen Bourne is constantly walking about with a detective & talking to them in Piccadilly & finding out information from them as to houses which he wishes to prosecute.

Colonel Bourne when his Father was called away said that for garrison towns he wd have CD acts: which meant that any woman seen walking with a common soldier after 10 PM was warned: after warning they were detained for examination if found a second time: these acts were abrogated because of a special case got up by the shrieking sister

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"Sisterhood": especially cooked for the occasion⁶
& brought out in the House of Commons: but
the acts had done much good in his opinion
The work of his society is amongst men
only. He lays the blame almost entirely
on parents. Ignorance & curiosity are the main
causes of men going wrong. Do away with
these & put the relations of the sexes in a
proper light & there will be much less -
Colonel B lectures at Aldershot & Salisbury
& is in correspondence with all the Head-
masters.

With the material is a complete set of
reports of the Chasing & Vigilance Committee
Mrs Doune also recommended us to the
White Cross League. Sean's Yard which has

As a complete library dealing with all aspects of the question.

- 2). London Diocesan Council for Prevention Rescue at the Church House. Deans Yard.
- 3). London Council for the promotion of Public Morality. St. F. Butler. Sec. 37 Norfolk St Strand. (to be seen after the Vestry election).
- 4). Shrimpton's homes for young women.

Mr. Stephens Donnes accusations were labelled impartially at the Police, Restaurants & Public houses, Drapers shops for giving credit to prostitutes, to Pawn shops for the same reason, & on Jays Whiteley & Peter Robinson for not giving a Sunday dinner to their employees, & on vestrymen who got elected merely to conceal better the fact that they were the owners of brothels.

Ruri-decanal Conference.

Holy Trinity Schools, Woolwich, October 8th, 1900,

7.30 p.m. to 9.45 p.m.

ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS.

1.—Prayer and Apostles' Creed.

Opening Address by the Rural Dean.

Financial Statement by the Treasurer.

*2.—The Bill drafted by the Church Reform League for the Reform of Convocation.

Opening Speaker—Rev. C. E. ESCREET.

3.—(a) That the approaching transference of the Parochial Vestries to the Municipal Councils demands the strenuous efforts of all Churchmen for securing the return of fitting men, to serve as members for their respective localities, with especial reference to the repression of public immorality.

(b) This Conference expresses its conviction of the desirability of legislative action, on the common points in the Majority and Minority Reports of the last Royal Commission on Temperance.

Opening Speaker—STEPHEN BOURNE, Esq., F.S.I.

4.—In view of the importance of the approaching Election of the Members of the London School Board, and of the Recommendation of the Bishop of the Diocese, this Conference urges Churchmen to unite in endeavouring to return Candidates, who, in addition to promoting sound elementary education, will favour the efficient teaching of the Christian religion in the Schools of the Board and the avoidance of unfriendly action towards Voluntary Schools.

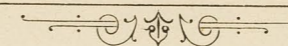
Opening Speaker—T. MANDY, Esq.

*A Copy of this Bill is enclosed.

N.B.—The Opener of a Subject for discussion will be allowed fifteen minutes, other Speakers five minutes.

OCT 1 19--

Woolwich Ruri-decanal Conference.



A Meeting of the Conference will be held (p.v.) on Monday evening, October 8th, at 7.30, in Holy Trinity Schools, Woolwich, preceded by a shortened form of Evensong, in Holy Trinity Church, at 6.30. Tea and Coffee from 7 to 7.30, at Sixpence per head.

We earnestly hope that you will be able to attend and take part in the deliberations.

Those Annual Subscriptions of One Shilling which have not already been paid for the year 1900, will be gladly received by the undersigned Treasurer.

The order of proceedings will be found on the other side

JOHN C. LEEKE, *Rural Dean.*

JOHN W. MORRIS, *Hon. Sec.,*

All Saints' Vicarage, Woolwich.

THOMAS MANDY, *Hon. Sec. & Treas.,*

The Mount, 175, Eglinton Road, Woolwich.

September 27th, 1900.

Holy Trinity Schools are situated close to the Arsenal Station, adjoining Holy Trinity, Church.

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Report of interviews with Dr. Ryan, Principal of the Woolwich Polytechnic, and Mr. F.G.Didden, the Head of the Social Side. (E.A.) Oct. 25.00.

Dr. Ryan, an old King's Coll.(Camb.) man, with a long string of letters after his name, is the capable man who has been put in chief charge here, but he has only held the post since the beginning of this year. His knowledge, therefore, of Woolwich and of the past career of the Polytechnic is limited, much more so than that of Mr. Didden, who has been connected with it from its inception, and ~~to~~ to whom in a certain sense it owes its existence.

I saw Dr. Ryan first, and the point that perhaps appeared to be uppermost in his mind, or in any case the one that he appeared to think that it was most necessary that I should be clear about, was that the Polytechnic had had a somewhat perturbed career, at any rate during recent years, owing to a certain amount of "bickering" and rivalry between those on the governing body who are keenest about education and those whose first care is the "social side". He is a man of considerable scientific attainments, but in addition to having much useful special knowledge (I see that he lectures on various branches of Physics, on Steam and the Steam Engine, on Electric Light and Power Distribution, and

(2)

on Geology, besides giving demonstrations in the Engineering Laboratory) he has a comprehensive interest in most branches of the work, and is making it his business to foster the Social as well as the educational side. In the past it is probable that the former has been somewhat starved. The fact is that the promoters of the Institute had this part most at heart, and in the early years the place was mainly a kind of Young Men's Christian Institute. Classes were added, but a time came when, although much money had been spent, (perhaps because much had been spent) ~~that~~ it got into low water. At this time the various educational bodies, and especially the Technical Board, came forward, and at the present time, while a good deal of the capital outlay, as for laboratories and class-rooms, as well as most of the current income comes from what may be called educational sources, the old friends of the Institute who started it and in the early years also spent large sums upon ^{it,} still remain an important element on the Council. They are not in a majority, but they are influential. Asked as to whether ~~the~~ changes that had been made recently with a view to strengthening the social side had put things on a satisfactory basis, Dr. Ryan said that it was too soon to judge, and the crux of the situation appears still to be a financial one, inasmuch as

(3)

with a not very full exchequer, they have constantly to settle on which side expenditure shall be sanctioned. A survey of the rooms after in company with Mr. Didden made it clear that money is not plentiful, but that the social rooms are those that have suffered. However, Mr. Didden has great hopes for the future, and great faith in Dr. Ryan's comprehensive sympathies.

The fees appear from the "Calendar" to be somewhat high, but Dr. R. considered that, with few exceptions, the people attracted to the Polytechnic were of the ~~of~~ class for whom it is intended. But he was not very clear as to who compose this class. He admitted that the great mass of the adult workmen of the Arsenal and of the district held aloof, but agreed ~~that~~ with the opinion of a Mr. Ellis, the Sec. of the local Ctee. of the U.E.S., that this was only what had to be expected: they had not been brought up in a way that suggested a very thoughtful use of their lesiure. For the Students of the plice there is no limit of age, but most are about 20, something under and something above. There are some 1200 separate students on the various registers, and of this number about 250 are ~~xxxxxx~~ females.

In addition, there is a Technical and Commercial Day School for boys and girls, with, I think, about 130 scholars. A fee of 30/- a term is charged, and the

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school is successful, attracting a good class of children. The fee helps to make it somewhat more exclusive than the Board Schools, among which, at Blomfield Road, there is a Science School that to some extent overlaps with the Polytechnic School. Dr. Ryan admitted this overlapping with the Board, adding "But we don't complain", and it clear that they have no case as "We are the sinners" in having started the Day School. It is possible also that there is a certain amount of overlapping in the evening work. ~~xxxxxxx~~ At the Polytechnic School boys and girls are taught together.

After talking for some time with Dr. Ryan, during which I was more impressed with his good intentions and with his intellectual power than with his organizing ability, he took me round to Mr. Didden's room, so that I might get further information about the work, and be shown the rooms. Mr. Didden is a man of about 40; he is one of the original members of the Regent St. Polytechnic, and when he came to Woolwich some seventeen years ago ^(I had some friends who had) he felt the great want in the district of some institution such as Mr. Quintin Hogg had started with such success in London. He wrote stating the Woolwich case to Mr. Hogg; the suggestion was taken up; a large private house and garden were secured and the Woolwich Institute was started. It proved very popular.

(5)

and building soon became necessary. In these early days, dating, however, only from 1890, a certain number of classes were started, but the place was primarily a social centre for Woolwich young men. The "bickering" that has attended the gradual evolution of a well equipped Technical and Educational Institute is easily understood when the beginnings are remembered and while talking to a man like Mr. Didden, himself well-meaning, half-educated, earnest -- the sublimation of the Regent Street Polytechnic young man. His own position must have been somewhat trying, as, at first head, then co-ordinate with a head of the educational side, he has been, since Dr. Ryan's predecessor was appointed, and is now, a subordinate to the "Principal" of the whole thing. But, as I have stated, he is very happy with Dr. Ryan, and looks for brighter days on the Social side.

"Students" need not be "Members", and Female students cannot be. The "Members" are thus a body to a great extent distinct from ^{the} students, and the latter may be regarded as forming the Polytechnic and the former the Institute. The membership of the latter is only 266 and of these only about 80 are also Students, figures that throw a good deal of light on the working of the whole institution. Particulars of admission and of the differential fees payable by students are given on p. 79.

of the ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ Calendar. A further attempt to strengthen the Institute has just been made in the adoption of a rule by which young men may join the various branches of the Institute without joining the Institute itself. Thus anyone wishing to join the Gymnasium will in future be able to do so on payment of 9/- a year. Previously, he had to be a member of the Institute first, and his total fees would have been 13/6. This admission to sections clearly has its dangers, and to these Mr. Didden is alive. In reality he opposed the fresh rules, but was overborne by his own friends on the Council who are anxious to strengthen the Institute, and all that he can do now is to watch events and endeavour to guard against the unhealthy growth of sectional interests.

A list of the various attractions ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ for the Members is given on pp. 78-83: the Gymnasium; Concerts and Entertainments, with a right to admission at two-thirds of the ordinary charges; various Societies; the Athletic Club, "the most important Society", with a about 130 members, etc.

On Sunday the rooms are set apart for uses that are ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ consistent with the ideas of the original founders, and that make the sub-title of "Young Men's Christian Institute" not a mis-nomer. But the attendances are open and have no particular connex-

ion with the members. The most important fixture is the P.S.A., at which there is an average attendance of about 500. On the leaflet it is described as "A bright hour of Gospel, Music, Song and Story". Speakers of various denominations are invited, but the meetings have a religious basis, although social topics are not eschewed. There is a well-supported "Book-Fund" but otherwise no form of membership of the P.S.A. There is also a Bible Class for Young Women, see p.85.

Mr. Didden showed me round, and the most noticeable rooms, after the excellent Hall (used ~~also~~ as a gymnasium on almost every night in the week except Saturday) were perhaps the Chemical, Metallurgical, and Physical Laboratories. There were several good lecture rooms. The social rooms were not attractive, at any rate when seen empty in the day-time. The Library is small, and is apparently somewhat dwarfed by the Public Library which is not far off. The "Skipwith Library" (see p.55) has been deposited with the Polytechnic, and the same friend (a friend of Grinling's) has also lent a collection of pictures and engravings, some of considerable value and interest. These brighten and beautify some of the rooms.

The rooms still left of the house of the original Institute are now almost lost in the additions that

have sprung up round them, but there is a large site, once the garden of the house, still available for further building, and should funds allow further additions are contemplated. The property is not freehold, but is held on a 90 or 99 years' lease, at a rental of something under £150 a year.

No Report - quoted by Ryan promise to duplicate a copy for me. It will be done in a fortnight.

The effect of the large amount of overtime that has been worked at Woolwich ~~was~~ was mentioned, both by Dr. Ryan and by Mr. Didden. Mr. Ellis, too, was lamenting the effects on the attendance at his University Extension lectures. It was noticeable that Prof. Lewes, perhaps the most popular of all the lecturers on the staff of the London Society, and who at other times has had audiences of from 4 to 500 at Woolwich, started a week or two ago with only 70.

Notes on the Royal Arsenal Co-operative Society, Woolwich; interviews with Mr. W.J.Machen, the Sec. of the Education Committee, and Mr. Alexander McLeod, the Secretary and Manager. (E.A.) Oct. 25.00.

The Arsenal Co-operative Soc. is the only one of importance in the County of London, and now ranks among the twenty-five greatest Societies in the whole country. It was started in 1869, when it had 47 members, Capital to the amount of £27, and did trade during the first year of £444. At the end of the first half of 1900 it had 15,738 members; £243,604 Capital; and had the Sales had amounted to nearly £170,000. There were six branches, in addition to the central stores at Powis St. Woolwich, and including the ^(about 300) men working on the new estate (see later) there were 710 persons in its employ. Progress has been almost continuous since the start, but since '97, the membership has increased by nearly 5000. New branches are contemplated, and a large site for one of these has just been purchased. As a centre of ordinary co-operative business, the record of this Society is remarkable, certainly for the South of England, but it possesses exceptional interest for the whole co-operative world through the bold policy that has enabled it to ^{become} ~~be~~ the owners of land (for development) to the value of nearly £60,000; and to have

created a Works' Departments of its own, through which it is proposed ^{among the things} to build some 4000 houses during the next 20 years, and thus to provide dwellings for a population that it is expected will amount to from 25,000 to 30,000 souls, at a total capital outlay of something like a million and a quarter.

Much of this large sum will, it is true, be advanced by occupiers, but since most of the latter are likely to be members of the Society, the savings they will devote to the purchase of their homes will be largely capital that would otherwise have been invested with the Society.. As the annual increment of capital now amounts to something like £70,000 or £80,000, and as the Soc. pays five per cent, it is clear that the building scheme will not only provide dwellings for those who need them, but will also be an outlet for the Society of savings that ^{otherwise} might seriously have overweighted it. It has been by already doing an extensive business in loans, and thus acting already as a building society on a considerable scale, that it has been ^{up to the point} able to relieve itself of the burden of more capital than ~~the~~ required.

The operations of the Society make it clear that

it must be an important element in the life of many people at Woolwich: training a certain number in the management of affairs; providing an automatic machinery for savings; affording, ^{a new channel} and destined to afford, by which, as leaseholders, working-class occupiers may own the houses in which they live -- in these and in many other ways the Society enters into the lives of many of the people of Woolwich, besides securing them the ordinary consumers' advantages of a well-organized store. On what may be called the moral side, it is impossible to estimate the advantages of co-operation, ~~effort~~: of the underlying fact of associated effort; of additional means of education; of access to books; of stimulated interest in local affairs and in local problems; of "co-operative teas" and conversaziones, and social reunions of many descriptions, but, from all that I heard and saw, real those these advantages are, I think that the material and commercial advantages here at Woolwich, as in most other Societies, large and small, far outweigh ~~x~~ considerations of this kind. But this is rather the statement of a simple fact, than of an adverse criticism. Woolwich is a practical place, and above all others co-operators are practical people. Their charity ~~xxxx~~ ^{xxxxx} ~~xxxx~~ begins at home. Bread and butter are felt to come

(4)

before the claims of civic duty, and a good home to be of more pressing importance than intellectual advancement. The practical genius of the whole movement at Woolwich is found in their Secretary and manager, Mr. McLeod, rapidly becoming one of "the grand old men" of Co-operation. He has been their own manager from the start; a shrewd, capable, and determined man; not blind or indifferent to the more ideal aspects of the movement, but making it his business to build on the sure foundation of material success. "Which department interests you most?" I had asked, while he was showing me round. "The one that gives most trouble" was the reply, --the one that it is hardest to make a success. He is a thoroughly practical man: "I have sometimes to blend as many as fourteen different kinds of flour~~xxx~~ to get the bread I want" he had said in the great model bakery of the Store, one of the largest, and some say the best equipped in the whole of London, and where 150 sacks of flour are often baked in the day. The ease with which waste may be incurred was illustrated by his remark that a rising thermometer often sent down the daily demand for bread to the extent of ten sacks. He has no weak sympathy with the "working-class". In speaking of the determination only to sell the houses on the new

(5)

estate on lease, and to have no weekly tenants, he remarked "If I had a million, I would not invest a penny of homes for weekly tenants" and he cited instances of their destructive and dirty habits. In the apportionment of responsibility between landlord and tenant for insanitary conditions he would not forget, as so many do, to place a large share on the shoulders of the latter. He is probably a strong man in dealing with other men: asked as to what sort of a committee she had, he said that on the whole they were good enough: "some are like sheep, and do nothing but follow; others are like pigs, and will do nothing without driving, but on the whole" etc. etc. I expect that at the present time, he would be a bold committee-man who would thwart the Secretary in any scheme that he thought important and advantageous. It is generally admitted that it is to him that the Society owes the Bostall Estate scheme, and ~~the~~ ^{its} chief thoroughfare is to called the "McLeod Road".

In a few months the whole of the central premises will be rebuilt and enlarged, and the plans that I saw make it clear that the new buildings will form a conspicuous feature in Woolwich street architecture. This for an ordinary Society would be a sufficiently big project to have on hand, but here I heard hardly anything about it: the really important thing is the ~~xxx~~ develop-

ment of the new estate. Conversation thus turned a good deal upon it, but all the essential facts are given in the leaflet on page .Mr. M. mentioned with regret that the plan of paying the operative builders employed a half-penny an hour above trade union rates had so far failed to secure the Society a steady set of men, who were prepared to make it their business to work regularly and well. Drinking has been the great difficulty but by steady weeding, they are gradually getting a better set in. He complained bitterly of the attempts to avoid giving a fair day's work, and of the complaints that had been made to the trade union branches of men who had worked properly, but who were felt by the lazier set to be doing more than the recognized "minimum". "They have too much money" said Mr. McLeod.

He showed me the photograph of and spoke in terms of high praise of the young fellow who is in charge of the works, who had, I gathered come to the Soc. a few years ago as an ordinary artisan, a joiner I think, and by hard work qualified himself for his present position. In addition to laying down the sewers, ~~and~~ building the houses, and carrying ^{on} most of the subsidiary trades, except that of brick-making, the Society ~~has~~ has a works department at Bostall Farm at which a great deal is done to supply the ordinary requirements ~~of~~ of the stores.

to supply the ordinary requirements of the stores. They make nearly all their own fittings, and build their own vans. On the land that is not to be used for building, they farm, mostly for the growing of vegetables for their "greengrocery" department. It may be noticed that the extent to which the principle of "direct employment" is adopted is one of the things upon which the management of the Society prides itself, and the decision to avoid calling in the contractor is regarded as one of the most satisfactory features in connexion with the Bostall Farm scheme. There is no reason to suppose that the future will make them regret it, but ~~is~~ it may be noticed that at present they do not know at what price they will be able to sell their new houses. They are building a certain number, more or less experimentally. Another matter that prevents them from finally fixing on the prices of the houses is the incompleteness of expenditure on the ~~st~~ system of drainage, a share of which is to be charged to each house. In size they are to be ~~from~~ mostly, perhaps all, either six or eight roomed. The commencement of building was made the occasion of a celebration the other day, an account of which I insert from the local paper. A full account of the whole scheme is just being published in ~~the~~ one or two papers, and

copies of these will be sent me. Before I left, Mr. M. showed me round the Central Stores, including the "dairy" into which I forget how many gallons of milk come daily under contract from various farms (the Soc. tried the plan of having its own milking herd, but gave it up) and on which I see the profits were no less than 5/1 in the £ for the last half year, being far in excess of those of any other department; the excellent stables, for some 70 horses out of the 108 now owned by the Society, with machinery for bruising oats and cutting chaff; and, already mentioned, the great model bakery.

Before seeing Mr. McLeod, I had had a short conversation with Mr. Machen, the Sec. of the Education Committee, a middle-aged, rather anaemic, and not very forcible person. I found him working in the Library, but he had little to tell me that is not mentioned in the report of the educational work inserted. There were no new plans to describe, and no special success or failure to detail. The lectures to be given by Mr. Ashley on "The Study of Economics" are free, but it is stated that the subject was chosen to avoid any clashing with the course on Economic History that Mr. Slater is giving in connexion with the University Extension Society. ~~but~~ There is no reason to think that either are likely to be

ery successful. With the U.E.S. the Co-operators endeavour to work in as closely as possible, and in recent years have generally subscribed from £20 to £25 a year to the funds of the local Committee. They have two representatives upon it.

The Co-operative Soc. has four libraries, one at Powis St. and one ^{at each of the} Charlton, Erith, and Belvedere ^{branches}. In the aggregate they have not more than 5 to 6000 volumes. A catalogue is published, and the class of books may to some extent be deduced from the statistics of ~~xxx~~ those borrowed given in the report. In a concert programme ~~th~~ that Mr. Machen gave me "Seven reading rooms and four libraries free to members and their families~~xx~~" are advertised. It is worthy of note that some 10,000 copies of "Comradeship" the organ of the Society, are circulated among the members. To the classes in "Co-operation" and "Industrial History" arranged by the Education Committee there are some 60 or 70 entries in all, including the juvenile section. This does not seem many, and a glance at the Revenue Account shows what a mixed affair the educational work is, and how very little of the money spent goes in either ordinary class or lecture work, but this is commonly found to be the case with the Education Committees of Co-operative Societies. The work done here

by the Education Committee may seem to be somewhat paltry when the funds and the membership of the Soc. are remembered, but it is perhaps up to average, and there are certainly a good many at Woolwich, interested in the work of the Co-operative Society, who have the higher interests of their members very much at heart. But it is not an easy task to stir the mass of intellectual torpor that prevails. Mr. Machen is certainly hardly the man to do it, worthy fossil though he be.

Powis Street, in which the central stores stand, has become one of chief shopping centres of Woolwich, a long row of new business premises having been built. Among these are branches of Lipton, of the Home and Colonial Stores, and many other local shops that make up a strong body of competitors with the Stores. Mr. McLeod, in view of the continued prosperity of the Stores, is naturally quite unconcerned by this growth of alternative sources of retail supply: he thinks that they are likely to suffer from the Stores rather than the Stores to suffer from them. "We have gone on extending; the only question is how much faster we might have gone on doing so, had it not been for the keener competition". I find that the ~~average~~ average sale per member ~~per week~~ per week has slightly increased, taking the years 1889 and

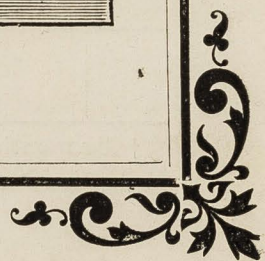
1899 as the basis of comparison. In the first year the weekly sales per member work out at about 7/5; in the latter, at about 7/10. On the other hand it is probable that 1899 was a much more prosperous year for Woolwich than 1889, and that there was therefore much more money spent. The above figures would not represent quite all that is spent per member, as the calculation treats as members for the whole year those who joined at any time be it January or December. But it is clear that, when all allowances are made for this, ~~there~~ there is a large margin of expenditure that goes to the shops. The position of the Stores is nevertheless a very strong one, and the extent to which they are dealt with with more or less completeness is seen when the total population of Woolwich, Plumstead and Charlton ~~is~~ is considered. In 1896, this was about 104,000, representing, say, 20,000 households. In that year there were 9251 members, representing, say, nearly half the total households in the districts covered by the Stores. The position is considerably stronger at the present time, as, although population has gone up considerably during the last four years, it has certainly not increased by something like 40 per cent, as the membership has done.



LES, 147, Powis Street, Woolwich.



BELVEDERE BRANCH.



Your Committee cannot conclude this report without once more congratulating the members generally upon the splendid progress of the past half-year, the Society now being amongst the 25 largest, as it is one of the most conspicuous in the United Kingdom. It is attracting special attention throughout the movement, not alone by reason of its size, but because of its spirited action in the purchase and development of the Bostall Estate, and the method of extension it has adopted by means of fully equipped branches. An example to many societies has also been set by its successfully seeking to secure the representation of Co-operators upon the local governing bodies, in all of which success would have been impossible but for the magnificent manner in which the efforts of the Committee have been supported by the members at large. The strength of the Society, as well as the success of the movement, is entirely dependent upon the members duly recognising their common interests, and exercising the duties implied thereby. The members thus possess the power to so guide the fortunes of the Society as to make it a source of continued benefit, established upon humanitarian principles, having for its object an increase in that bond of brotherhood, the extension of which is at once the hope and the ideal of true civilisation.

On behalf of the Committee,

ALEXANDER McLEOD, Secretary.

*Best of you
Report of the
year's work
1900.*

ARSE

The celebrations...
An old countryman on being asked why he didn't vote at the General Election, replied: "Why should I go moolies out of me way to vote for nawthin? There be no indocement to vote straight nowadays, not even a drink or a bit o' baccy 'angin' on to the end o' t, like there was in the good old times!"
A Parliamentary candidate, having concluded his speech, was about to sit down when someone inadvertently—or perhaps purposely—moved his chair, with the result that he sat on the floor. When the laughter that this incident provoked had subsided, the candidate good-humouredly remarked: "An old countryman on being asked why he didn't vote at the General Election, replied: "Why should I go moolies out of me way to vote for nawthin? There be no indocement to vote straight nowadays, not even a drink or a bit o' baccy 'angin' on to the end o' t, like there was in the good old times!"
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Wider Issues.

There is always a special interest in the last paragraph of the General Committee's report, which deals with the wider hopes and aims that inspire their work. In this report the hope is hinted that the co-operative movement, as a whole, may profit from the example set by our society in the purchase and development of the Bostall estate, extension by means of fully equipped branches, and securing representation on local governing bodies.
The committee ask for £50 to be spent in securing co-operative representation on the Woolwich Borough Council. This, no doubt, will readily be granted; but that is not enough. What is needed in Municipal elections is that the 15,000 members of the society should vote and work unitedly for the best candidates who can be found. With the union of the three parishes of Woolwich, Plumstead, and Eltham there are immense possibilities for a Municipal Council that should act up to the motto of our society—"Each for all, and all for each."

Future Programme.

The month of September the Committee will devote to the collection of all discoverable facts throwing light upon the problem of the right and proper housing of the people of Woolwich. As early as possible in October, a second pamphlet giving the results of the investigation will be published, and every effort possible in such a short space of time will be made to secure that this pamphlet shall be a just, impartial, and authoritative statement of the facts of the case. A list of candidates who are pledged to support the building of good municipal cottages, to be let at the lowest possible rents, and in numbers sufficient to bring down the rents obtainable by private owners, will be drawn up, and all voters will be asked to vote for those only. The Committee believes that, however difficult, it is not impossible that the homes of the workers may be made such that health is possible, if only the workers themselves will strike a blow for their own deliverance from the ground-landlord and the house-farmer.

Statistical table showing at a glance the progress of the Society from its commencement to the present day:—

Date.	Members.	Capital.	Sales.	MEMBERS' DIVIDEND.		Interest.	Reserve Fund.	Non-members' Dividend.	Employés Share of Profits.	Educational Fund.	Equalisation Fund.	Insurance Fund.	Advances on Mortgage.
				Amount.	Average Rate per £.								
		£	£	£ s. d.	s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1869	47	27	444	9 16 0	0 6	0 17 0	1 4 2	....	....	....	....	....	....
1870	55	62	879	29 6 10	0 9	2 10 10	8 15 10	....	....	....	....	....	....
1871	58	95	999	33 14 11	0 9	3 14 0	10 0 0	....	....	....	....	....	....
1872	77	118	1071	34 18 3	0 9	4 5 3	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
1873	232	335	2666	88 7 10	0 9	13 1 3	1 0 3	1 4 9	1 4 9	....	....	....	....
1874	268	548	3824	159 1 1	1 0	23 11 3	15 2 1½	6 3 2	5 7 1	....	....	....	....
1875	470	1342	8222	442 13 3	1 3	54 12 0	42 6 6	13 19 9½	14 15 4	....	....	....	....
1876	695	2246	11804	662 6 6	1 4	93 15 0	44 9 0	32 8 11½	31 1 7	....	....	....	....
1877	883	3323	18976	1240 17 6	1 6	152 15 8	56 19 3	78 16 6	66 13 6	20 10 6	....	....	....
1878	1234	4826	24668	1695 18 0	1 6	196 11 6	160 6 6	75 12 9	90 13 6	54 2 6	....	....	....
1879	1597	6434	30721	2397 10 11	1 8	277 0 0	185 7 6	116 18 9	144 11 8	76 10 0	....	....	....
1880	1757	8744	34733	1877 13 0	1 2	380 5 1	199 11 6	72 17 2	141 11 8	58 5 0	....	....	....
1881	1934	9325	36874	2242 14 8	1 4	452 10 7½	178 14 0	97 18 8	177 4 0	73 1 6	....	....	....
1882	2375	12063	44691	2892 6 2	1 5	543 5 7½	167 9 6	113 14 4	211 11 11	87 9 3	....	....	....
1883	2764	14742	51216	3439 6 4	1 7	682 15 4	135 9 6	106 11 11½	276 9 6	105 9 0	....	....	....
1884	3236	19252	59146	4489 7 8	1 7	853 15 3	202 16 0	127 17 1	312 17 1	131 15 6	....	....	2345 0 0
1885	3865	27879	72121	6806 19 4	1 11	1133 9 2½	425 1 6	166 14 11	473 12 6	204 5 6	....	....	3650 0 0
1886	4480	36774	84492	8402 16 0	2 0	1611 14 9½	669 2 0	127 19 0	609 0 10	253 10 0	....	....	2846 0 0
1887	5546	44384	105038	8883 14 10	1 9½	2012 14 0	784 4 6	135 17 4	705 0 2	272 5 6	....	....	....
1888	6108	53946	118930	10167 17 9	1 9½	2437 2 5	776 9 0	156 0 2	790 2 9	304 2 0	....	....	....
1889	6721	62786	126076	9841 18 4	1 7½	2872 17 11½	764 10 0	155 2 6½	751 10 4	293 7 6	....	....	....
1890	7510	73325	132698	11583 12 8	1 9½	3400 5 8	933 7 9½	153 14 11½	868 7 6	351 4 0	....	....	7125 10 0
1891	7625	86016	144943	11678 14 3	1 7½	3992 17 7½	850 9 0	146 3 0	834 15 9	343 8 6	....	....	6755 10 0
1892	8058	83420	143108	11391 19 2	1 7½	4346 12 10	539 15 0	126 7 4	920 9 2	324 18 0	....	....	9340 0 0
1893	7757	75282	136352	8709 1 4	1 4	4090 4 1½	*147 18 6	82 7 4	722 2 6	244 3 6	....	....	....
1894	7640	68998	139147	10652 10 4	1 7	3725 16 8	354 11 6	103 13 2	875 11 7	299 17 0	....	....	313 17 0
1895	7992	80053	147462	12597 18 0	1 9	3802 15 5	412 11 0	116 12 9	1102 15 10	367 11 0	989 19 1¾	....	816 12 0
1896	9251	100009	173512	15315 6 10	1 10	4184 17 4½	395 8 6	84 7 6	1278 4 5	449 14 6	46 8 7	80 0 0	4423 17 2
1897	10957	125496	201724	17878 15 2	1 10	5632 11 6	418 5 3	76 9 0	1496 14 6	507 2 0	562 8 9	140 0 0	23361 14 10
1898	13040	162778	252298	22562 14 10	1 10	6740 16 11	423 9 3	76 6 3	1899 17 8	668 4 6	*98 5 10¾	900 0 0	33903 8 2
1899	14424	208789	283627	26791 3 4	1 11	9377 15 8	557 1 4	78 7 10	2281 9 8	829 0 6	1346 8 4	730 0 0	36654 0 3
†1900	15738	243604	169721	15618 8 9	1 11	5507 11 3	218 16 2	54 18 3	1275 1 3	476 10 0	376 6 7	200 0 0	17263 17 3
		Totals..£	2767183	230619 9 10	..	£68605 9 1	£9784 14 11	£2685 2 2½	£18358 18 0	£6796 7 3	3223 5 6	2050 0 0	148799 6 8

† Six months only.

* Reduced.

- †: YEARS of difficulties for Building Societies. One or two big failures = W. Adams. People with fright.

Your Committee cannot conclude this report without once more congratulating the members generally upon the splendid progress of the past half-year, the Society now being amongst the 25 largest, as it is one of the most conspicuous in the United Kingdom. It is attracting special attention throughout the movement, not alone by reason of its size, but because of its spirited action in the purchase and development of the Bostal Estate, and the method of extension it has adopted by means of fully equipped branches. An example to many societies has also been set by its successfully seeking to secure the representation of Co-operators upon the local governing bodies, in all of which success would have been impossible but for the magnificent manner in which the efforts of the Committee have been supported by the members at large. The strength of the Society, as well as the success of the movement, is entirely dependent upon the members duly recognising their common interests, and exercising the duties implied thereby. The members thus possess the power to so guide the fortunes of the Society as to make it a source of continued benefit, established upon humanitarian principles, having for its object an increase in that bond of brotherhood, the extension of which is at once the hope and the ideal of true civilisation.

On behalf of the Committee,

ALEXANDER McLEOD, Secretary.

Entered for
Registration
Yearly July
1900.

ARSENAL CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY'S NEW ESTATE

The Royal Arsenal Co-operative Society celebrate the commencement of building operations on their Bostal Estate by placing a commemorative tablet at the entrance of the principal thoroughfare, known as the McLeod-road, on Wednesday afternoon. There was a large gathering of members of the Society, and the occasion was made festive by a procession of the horses and vehicles belonging to the Society, accompanied by the bands of the 3rd Kent Position Artillery Volunteers, and the 3rd Vol. Batt. (Queen's Own) Royal West Kent Regiment, which wended its way from the Central Stores of the Society, Powis-street, Woolwich, traversing some of the principal streets of Woolwich and Plumstead, on the way to Bostal. The cortege numbered some 50 vehicles and 80 horses, and the members of the Committee and principal officials of the Society in waggons took part, the streets through which the procession passed being lined with spectators.

On arrival at the site, around which flags were displayed, the company gathered round the platform erected in front of the memorial tablet, which bore the following inscription:—"Royal Arsenal Co-operative Society. This stone was laid by R. Mackay, Chairman of the Society, to commemorate the commencement of building on the Bostal Estate, October 17th, 1900. Committee: C. Byford, A. Deans, A. Dashwood, O. Foster, T. Heard, J. Illidge, J. Steer, T. Knowles, R. Wale, A. McLeod, (Secretary and Manager), T. G. Arnold (Assistant Secretary), F. Bethell (Architect and Surveyor), J. Tall (Assistant Manager)." The stone is set into the wall of a red brick structure, which will be surmounted by a pediment, on which will be inscribed the motto of the Society "Each for all and all for each." Standing at the corner of McLeod-road, a thoroughfare 50 feet wide and three quarters of a mile in length, the memorial will be a conspicuous object to visitors approaching the estate from the Plumstead side.

Amongst those present on Wednesday were Messrs. R. Mackay (Chairman of the Society), C. Byford, A. Dashwood, O. Foster, J. Illidge, J. Steer, T. Knowles, R. Wale, A. McLeod, T. G. Arnold, F. Bethell, J. Tall, Mrs. A. Deans, Mrs. Lawrenson, Mrs. Bridges Adams, M.L.S.B., the Rev. W. Wragge, Messrs. J. J. Messent, W. Kemp, Decimus Marsh, J.P., C. H. Grinling, W. T. Vincent, A. Sutherland, W. H. Brown (Central Co-operative Board), F. Chambers, T. T. Smith, J. Arnold, W. T. Farmer and others.

Mr. A. McLeod (the Secretary and Manager of the Society) expressed pleasure at the large gathering, and said they had had a glorious day and a grand demonstration. The Society had had many demonstrations in their time at the opening of new branches, etc., but the one that day surpassed any they had had in the past. The others involved members in the outlay of a few thousands, but the new estate involved an expenditure of hundreds of thousands of pounds. The memorial tablet was to commemorate the development of the Bostal Estate, which was the largest attempt that had ever been made by any Co-operative Society, the development of 170 acres of land. On that estate they hoped to erect something like 4,000 houses, to accommodate a population of 20,000 or 30,000. As showing how the work had been pushed forward, he mentioned that the first brick at the bottom of that road was laid on May 28th last, and now they had 20 houses ready for occupation, another 20 had the roofs on, and another 30 were well advanced in building. For some years the Society had been advancing money to members to purchase their houses, the total amount being something like £150,000, and he hoped that when the estate was fairly going they would double that sum. The buildings were being erected by the Society's own work people, there were no contractors on the job, and the Society had laid it down that every man employed should be paid one halfpenny an hour more than the trade union rate (hear, hear). By this means they hoped to attract the best kind of workmen, and by working together in harmony to establish a building system which could not be surpassed (cheers). He appealed to all the members to rally round them to make the estate a thorough success, and said that by the time the winter was over they hoped to have sufficient houses erected to accommodate some hundreds or more of their members. He then asked the Chairman of the Society (Mr. Mackay) to accept a silver trowel and mallet to lay the memorial tablet (cheers).

J. Illidge, a member of the Building Committee, pointed out that the building scheme was unique. The property belonged to the Society, and no one need be shut out from acquiring a house; they had every confidence that the endeavours of the Committee would receive the loyal support of members. They had no selfish motive, and the Committee wanted to see every house occupied by a single individual. They did not intend to have any public houses on the estate, there would be no police station, and he hoped no pawn shop (laughter).

Mr. J. Steer said the undertaking was not that of any private capitalist, but that of the workers themselves, who were thus taking a step towards the solution of the housing problem. He knew the houses could not be obtained by the submerged tenth, but the better paid artisans would be able to purchase houses of their own. He hoped that if any differences should arise between the workmen and the Society they would be settled in conference. The Society's object was not to pile up capital, but to develop the estate upon the truest basis the conditions would allow (cheers).

The tablet was then duly placed by Mr. Mackay, who afterwards in the course of an address mentioned that the Society had in 33 years doubled their capital and their trade. He gave a history of the purchase of the Suffolk Estate, of which that ground formed part, the cost of the purchase of which was £40,000 and said that at one time it was used by the Duke of Suffolk, in the days of Queen Elizabeth as a shooting lodge, but he (the speaker) thought they had done more that day to make history than was done by that historic shooting party. He referred to the erection of workshops by the Society and said that every step had been taken to provide for the use of the best workmanship and materials in the building of the houses, which they hoped to make the best in the district for the money (cheers). He paid a tribute to the director of the works, Mr. Bethell, who had under him 300 employes, and predicted that as soon as the houses became known there would be a rush on the part of members to obtain them.

Mr. Bethell, manager of the estate, in a few remarks said he did not see why they should not build cheaper than other builders around them, who could not buy as cheaply, and had not the facilities for doing the work that the Society had. He expected that the estate would be built on at the rate of 200 houses a year.

The proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to Mr. McLeod on the motion of Mr. R. Wale, seconded by Mr. U. Foster.

In the evening, a public meeting and concert was held at the Drill Hall, Woolwich, which was crowded on the occasion. Mr. R. Mackay presided, and an excellent musical programme was rendered by "The Japs," Masked Singers, who were much appreciated. During the proceedings an address was given by Mr. E. O. Greening, member of the Southern Section of the Central Co-operative Board.

Wider Issues.

There is always a special interest in the last paragraph of the General Committee's report, which deals with the wider hopes and aims that inspire their work. In this report the hope is hinted that the co-operative movement, as a whole, may profit from the example set by our society in the purchase and development of the Bostal estate, extension by means of fully equipped branches, and securing representation on local governing bodies.

The committee ask for £50 to be spent in securing co-operative representation on the Woolwich Borough Council. This, no doubt, will readily be granted; but that is not enough. What is needed in Municipal elections is that the 15,000 members of the society should vote and work unitedly for the best candidates who can be found. With the union of the three parishes of Woolwich, Plumstead, and Eltham there are immense possibilities for a Municipal Council that should act up to the motto of our society—"Each for all, and all for each."

Future Programme.

The month of September the Committee will devote to the collection of all discoverable facts throwing light upon the problem of the right and proper housing of the people of Woolwich. As early as possible in October, a second pamphlet giving the results of the investigation will be published, and every effort possible in such a short space of time will be made to secure that this pamphlet shall be a just, impartial, and authoritative statement of the facts of the case. A list of candidates who are pledged to support the building of good municipal cottages, to be let at the lowest possible rents, and in numbers sufficient to bring down the rents obtainable by private owners, will be drawn up, and all voters will be asked to vote for those only. The Committee believes that, however difficult, it is not impossible that the homes of the workers may be made such that health is possible, if only the workers themselves will strike a blow for their own deliverance from the ground-landlord and the house-farmer.

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Our 63rd Balance Sheet.

The half-yearly meeting will have taken place in the Drill Hall before *Comradeship* is in the hands of members, but our report of it must be held over till October. The balance sheet, however, is now before us, and we should not be human if we did not chortle a little to call the world to witness what co-operation is doing in our corner of the County of London.

The Dividend.

Most members will look first to see what the dividend is, and again, most of them will be satisfied when they see it is again 1s. 11d. in the £. This, with the dividend to non-members, the educational fund, and the dividend to employees, will absorb £17,480 out of a disposable profit of £19,060. The remainder of the profit allows £400 to be paid into the general insurance fund, £700 to special depreciation funds for Woolwich, Charlton, and Erith, and £480 to the fund for equalisation of dividend. The reserve fund now stands at £9,784, the general insurance fund at £2,050, and the equalisation of dividend fund at £3,223, making a total of over £15,000.

Increase of Trade.

Every branch, and every department but one, has contributed to the great increase of trade over the first half of last year. The total increase is £39,176, which, allowing for the fact that in the first half of 1899 there were 25 weeks only, is an increase of 25 per cent. The different departments have grown at very unequal rates.

Hardware	has increased by 66.3 per cent.
Furnishing	52.9
Tailoring	52.1
Coals	41.7
Shoemaking	34.2
Drapery	29.4
Greengrocery	28.0
Grocery	26.5
Butchery	21.9
Dairying	18.2
Confectionery	7.3
Bakery	4.7
Millinery	shows a decrease of 5

The increase of trade in coal is chiefly a nominal one, due to the high prices of recent months. On the other hand, if the sales of bread be measured in the number of loaves sold, we find the increase is 8.3 per cent., in place of 4.7 per cent. It is noticeable that the butchery has now deposed the bakery from the position of being the second largest department, the sales of meat having exceeded those of bread by over £1,000. The profit from the bakery, however, is over £4,000, as against just under £1,000 profit from the sale of meat. The drapery, however, promises soon to surpass both bakery and butchery, and it shows a handsome rate of profit.

The New Branch.

The sensational item in the balance sheet is that which announces the purchase of a 99 years' lease of the Links, Plumstead Common, from Mr. W. G. Dawson. For years the committee have been endeavouring to obtain a suitable site

in that neighbourhood, and now they are to be congratulated on having acquired a magnificent one. There is a frontage of about 200 feet to Plumstead Common Road; there is a great piece of ground amply sufficient for a number of cottages, in addition to a branch as large as Lakedale Road; and immediately behind these are rows and rows of houses rapidly being added to, where members live who are most inconveniently situated for purchasing from any of the existing branches. There can be little doubt that when opened the South Plumstead branch will have a success similar to that of Lakedale Road and Belvedere.

The Society's Capital.

While the society is so vigorously launching out in new directions, there can be no fear of "surplus capital," that bogey which haunts the unenterprising societies. The growth of capital is instead, a reason for congratulation, and the rate of growth has of late been very rapid. It now stands at £243,604; a year ago it was £183,481; that is, it has increased by £60,000 in a single year. The money invested by members in the society is, in fact, more than the sum total of all the dividends declared during the society's existence, so that one might say that members have not, on the average, withdrawn any of their dividend, but only part of the interest on it. Nor is there any fear of the growth of the capital, and the interest due on it at 5 per cent., becoming an undue burden on the society. According to the expenses accounts, the various charges on the society for interest amounted to £5,520 for the half year, but out of that £3,420 was met by interest due to the society, chiefly from mortgagors. The balance of about £2,000 represents the cost to the society during the half year of the capital represented by its stock, land and buildings, fixtures, rolling stock, horses, &c.

Purchases.

Compared with 1899, the percentage of purchases from co-operative sources shows a considerable improvement.

In Grocery	it is 63 $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. against 53 $\frac{1}{2}$.
.. Drapery	32 " " 40.
.. Tailoring	18 $\frac{1}{2}$ " " 16 $\frac{1}{2}$.
.. Shoemaking	51 $\frac{3}{4}$ " " 42 $\frac{3}{4}$.
.. Furnishing	17 $\frac{1}{4}$ " " 18.
.. Hardware	53 " " 52.
.. Greengrocery	46 $\frac{1}{2}$ " " 45 $\frac{1}{2}$.

These figures show a mean of 40 $\frac{1}{4}$ against 38 $\frac{1}{4}$, but the real increase is much more. It is better seen in the increase in dividend received on purchases from co-operative sources, which has gone up from £489 to £729, an increase of 50 per cent. It is interesting to note that the dividend received is just half as much again as is necessary to pay the educational grant.

It is to be hoped that the progress in this direction will continue. There is still plenty of room for improvement. For instance, we are sure that if the purchases in boots and shoes from co-operative sources went up to 90 per cent. of the whole, we should get better value for our money, besides giving more help to the good cause of

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more capital into associations for erection of workmen's dwellings, which, like his own, would house people to the extent of 800 to the acre, and earn a satisfactory return. "He argued," says the official report, "that the death-rate was not increased by dealing with people in that way." How delightful will London be when all "the labouring classes" are thus housed by philanthropic capitalists, 800 to an acre—which means in "model" dwellings seven or eight stories high, with nice asphalted courts and proper regulations—for all the world just like one huge prison.

Some such solution of the Housing Question would no doubt be very agreeable to a large and influential class of people, who would take care to have a very different sort of house for themselves. But the "labouring classes" themselves, the men and women who are expected to inhabit the model dwellings and pay the philanthropists their dividends, beyond a doubt, desire to see the question solved in some other manner. But, though their views may be narrow, men of the type of Mr. Bond have at least spent brains and energy in improving the housing of the people according to their own ideas. It remains for the workers to show similar energy and resource in realising their ideal.

A very interesting paper was read by Mr. T. C. Horsfall, of Macclesfield. One passage is worth quoting:

"The direct bad influence of slums on the national life is clearly indicated by recent Manchester experience. Last year in that town about 11,000 young men wished to enlist. Of the 11,000, 8,000 had to be rejected on account of want of stamina or of physical defects; and of the 3,000 who were not rejected, only 1,072 could be put into the army; 2,072 were sent into militia regiments. The physical condition of a large proportion of the inhabitants of the more crowded parts of London and of all our large manufacturing towns is not less miserable than that of the poorer inhabitants of Manchester; and although coal-smoke, drinking, and licentiousness are amongst the factors which produce this physical deterioration, bad housing is the chief factor; and but for that factor the others would be easier dealt with. This physical deterioration does not stand alone. The mental and moral condition of the inhabitants of our over-crowded town districts is not less satisfactory than the physical condition."

Plenty of play grounds for children close to their homes, wide streets planted with trees, some park or open space within half-a-mile of every dwelling are the cures Mr. Horsfall prescribes; and he quotes the example of Berlin, which between 1872 and 1894, by the proper regulation of building, reduced its death-rate from 30 per 1,000 to 20. He urged the appointment of a commission "to draw up a code of regulations for making health possible in English towns."

This is indeed the first task the nation should take in hand at the present day—the task of mak-

ing health possible. It is a task needing the intelligent co-operation of Parliament, of County Councils, of Borough and District Councils, and of all classes of private citizens. This fact is speedily becoming recognised on all sides. And yet, with all the talk, and all the discussion on the subject, thus far I have never seen or heard a hint at what, in my opinion, is the first, the simplest, the easiest, and most effective step to a practical solution of the problem.

Before the central and local governing bodies begin to take positive measures to make houses cheap and abundant, we can call upon them to cease from making houses dear and scarce. There is no surer way of making any commodity dear or scarce than by taxing it; there is no commodity more grievously taxed in England than houses. If only our rulers would cease taxing our houses what an impetus would be given to house building.

At first sight such a proposal may seem far beyond the scope of practical politics, but a little consideration will show that it is not so. The method of making the change would be to pass an act similar in form to the Agricultural Land Rating Act for the payment of the rates on certain houses out of the Treasury. No houses should be allowed to take advantage of the Act unless they are—

- (1) Well built, with proper sanitation, lighting, and ventilation;
- (2) Occupied by people of the working class—*i.e.* by those whose incomes are *earned*, and do not exceed a certain standard, say £3 per week;
- (3) Let at fair rents, which again might be defined as a certain percentage of the rateable value.

The sum necessary to make these Treasury grants would not be large, and could be met by a further graduation of the income tax, which might take the form of a few extra pence on the excess of a man's income over £1,000. Viewed from the point of national finance, this would be a shifting of taxation from the necessities of life imposed upon the workers, to the unearned incomes of the wealthy. Not even the class that paid the new tax would suffer financially, for everything that increases the welfare of the workers increases the total annual production of the country and the incomes of the property holders.

Now for the reason why this proposal is practical politics. In the next Parliament, unless its life is prematurely cut short, the five years period of the duration of the Agricultural Rating Act will expire. Even those who are most bitterly opposed to the principle of that Act have no expectation of defeating the proposal to continue it. On the other hand attempts will certainly be made to rectify the special favour it shows to landowners by making it a far more comprehensive measure. What class of property will then be able to show as strong a claim as houses of the sort described above?

GILBERT SLATER.

ROYAL ARSENAL CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LIMITED.

Registered Office: 147, POWIS STREET, WOOLWICH.

BOSTAL FARM AND SUFFOLK PLACE ESTATES.

Scheme of Development

To be considered at the SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING to be held in the Drill Hall, Beresford Street, Woolwich, on Wednesday, April 25th, 1900.

TO THE MEMBERS—

Your Committee have for some months past carefully considered the best means of developing the above. The capital value of the estates is shown on the balance sheet last issued as being £54,427 7s. 7d., and after making allowance for rents received, this amount is being increased by accretions of interest, by an amount of nearly £900 yearly, which amount will increase before it can possibly be decreased. The estates have been surveyed, and upon that portion south of the railway there is room to erect about 3,500 houses, suitable for the industrial classes, with varying frontages of 15, 16, and 17 feet. The development can take the form of either (a) plotting the land and selling the freehold plots; (b) erecting houses, and selling the same subject to a lease; and (c) erecting houses and letting the same on weekly or other tenancy. Your Committee have concluded that the consideration

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of the method (a) cannot be entertained, inasmuch as it would be most inadvisable to do other than retain the freehold of the estate under the collective control of the members of the Society. Method (c), on the other hand, is also out of the question, inasmuch as a capital of from £1,200,000 to £1,300,000 would be required to carry this into effect. Assuming that 75 per cent. of this amount could be obtained from the Society's bankers, it would still leave a sum of £325,000 to be found by the Society, being more than half as much again as the present capital of the Society, whilst even then it would be found that in all probability the investment would not yield sufficient to pay 5 per cent. upon the capital invested. The method (b) is the one, therefore, favoured by your Committee as being the one most in accord with the prevailing ideas of the members, as far as such can be judged, and the method which promises to yield the greatest net benefit to both the Society and to all the occupiers and purchasers of the houses. Your Committee is of opinion, too, that the land should not be let on building leases, but that the Society should erect all houses through its own Works Department. It is proposed to include all legal costs, and the cost of construction of the roads and sewers in the price of the houses, so that a purchaser of a house may not only know the total cost to him, but by the adoption of this method the facilities for purchase will be increased through such charges being included in the sum advanced upon mortgage. It is proposed, also, that greater facilities of repayment should be given. In the case of houses erected by the Society, whilst the advance should continue to be not more than 90 per cent. of the purchase money, the repayments should extend over a period of about 30 years by *equal* monthly repayments. It is proposed that a fair minimum repayment should be 11s. per month for 29 years and 7 months for every £100 advanced, but which, if adopted, would not prevent mortgagors paying more than this, in order to complete their repayments in a less term than the 30 years. It has been recognised, too, that many of the poorer members, however ambitious to own the house in which they reside, cannot do so through their inability to find the £30, £40, or £50 generally required before a start can be made. To reach this class it is proposed to let the houses upon a tenancy agreement, with the option of purchase, charging rent at the rate of 3s. 2d. per week for every £100 of purchase money, plus an amount to cover all rates and taxes and other outgoings. The rent so paid will be credited to the tenant, and after debiting the account with 5 per cent. interest on the purchase money during the first year, and the annual balance for the next two years, together with

the charges for ground rent, rates, etc., carry the balance to the reduction of the principal, which in three years will be reduced by 10 per cent., and a mortgage can then be executed, and repayments made upon the scale before mentioned. It is also proposed that the Society should undertake the risk of fire, through its Insurance Fund, charging the purchasers of the houses such premiums as is customary upon cottage property.

It is, of course, out of the question that the development can proceed satisfactorily under our present rules, as in accordance with those rules the purchasers of the houses would be entitled to the same dividend as the purchasers of other articles, and the employes would also be entitled to a share in the profits at the same rate per £ on their wages. This would necessitate an increase in the price of houses from, say, £300 to £345, an increase which would be sufficient to prevent sales. To work under the existing rules would be manifestly unjust, inasmuch as if the houses were sold at the prevailing prices, the share of profits payable to the employes engaged in their construction, and the dividend to the purchasers of the houses would have to be taken from the trade profits of the Society. Assuming houses were built at the rate of, say, 200 per annum, and sold at about the ordinary prices, adherence to the present rules would necessitate the sum of nearly £6,000 being taken each half year from the trade profits in order to pay the charges mentioned. The charges for holidays and share of profit to employes alone amount to 13 per cent. on the wages, and as wages in the building trades amount to about 45 per cent. of the total cost of the buildings erected, it can easily be seen that the methods applied in the retail trading departments of the Society, where the wages amount to from 5 to 8 per cent. of the sales, would not be applicable where the wages amount to so great an increased percentage. It is, therefore, essential that the rules should be altered, and your Committee accordingly recommend they be so amended, that, while Trade Union conditions to labour are retained the payment for all holidays and the participation in profits should be discontinued so far as the employes of the Works Department and the purchasers of the houses are concerned, but that the wages of such employes be increased by $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour above the recognised Trade Union rate. Of course, other rules will have to be altered, and if the proposals in this report find acceptance, a Special General Meeting will be called specially to alter the rules of the Society, in accordance with your resolutions.

The following recommendations of the Committee will be submitted for discussion, each of which will be proposed by the Chairman on behalf of the Committee, for adoption:—

RESOLUTIONS.

1. That the freehold of the estate be retained by the Society, except in such cases where the intending purchasers have compulsory powers of purchase.
2. That all houses be constructed by the Society, and sold subject to a lease.
3. That the cost of the construction of roads and sewers and all legal costs be included in the purchase price of the houses.
4. That the Society become insurers of houses erected upon the Society's estates, charging such premiums as is customary upon cottage property.
5. That the term of repayments of mortgage advances be so altered as to allow mortgagors of houses erected by the Society on the Society's estates, extending their repayments over a term of not more than 30 years, instead of 20 as at present provided in the rules of the Society.
6. That the Committee be empowered to enter into tenancy agreements with intending purchasers, the rents so received being credited to their account with the Society, and, after debiting the same with interest at the rate of 5 per cent. on the agreed purchase money or balance of same, and the costs of ground rents, rates and taxes, and other outgoings, credit to the members' account with the balance, until the account is reduced by 10 per cent. when a mortgage can be executed, and repayments made as provided by the rules of the Society.
7. That Rule 46 be so altered as to provide that purchasers of land and houses erected by the Society, and employes engaged in the Society's works department should not participate in profits, and Rule 25 be so altered that the employes of the Society's works department shall not be entitled to the holidays therein mentioned, but shall be paid one half-penny per hour above the recognised Trade Union rates of wages.

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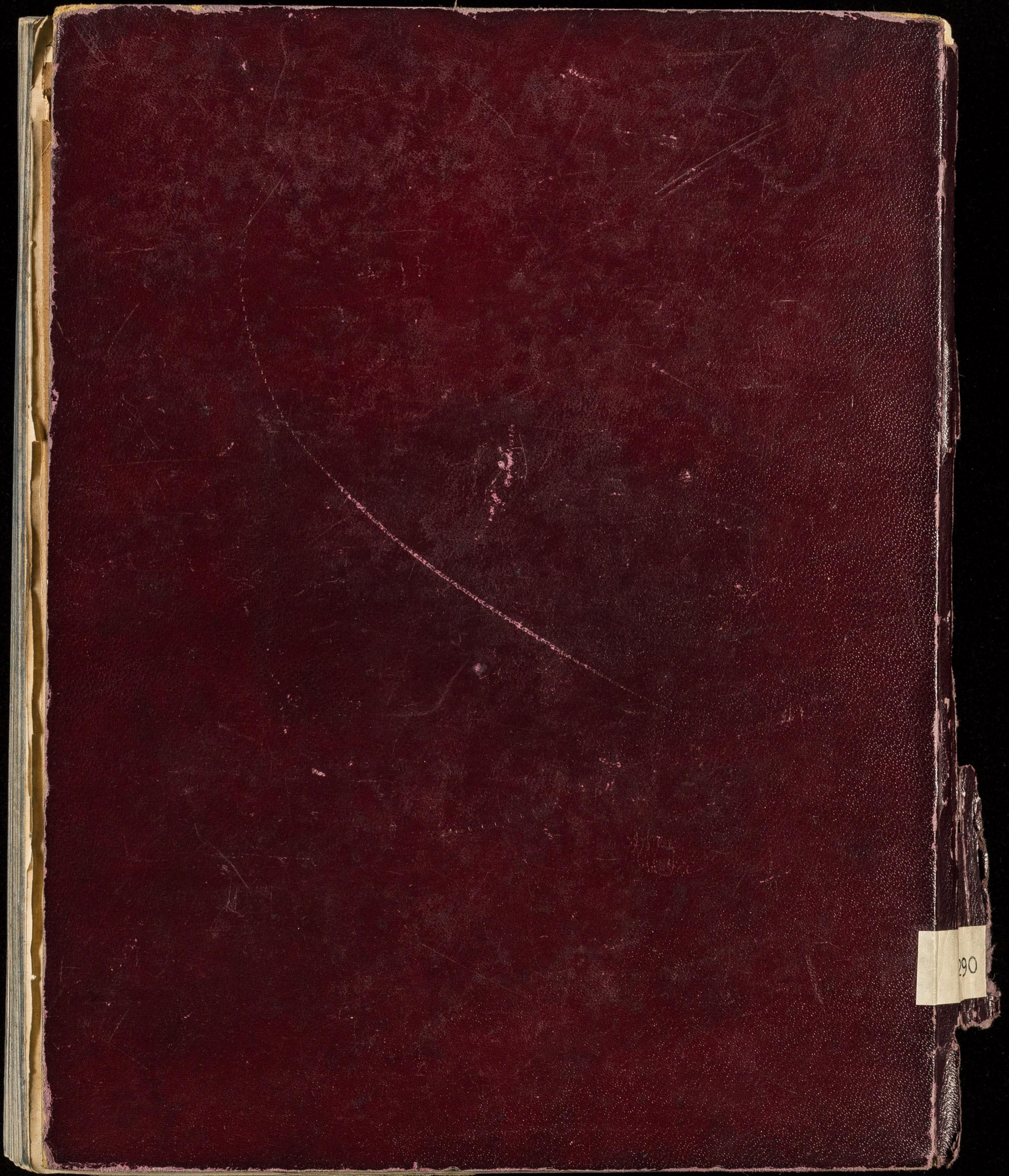
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