THE CHELSEA SOCIETY

THE ANNUAL REPORT 1955

Price Five Shillings

THE TITE STREET TREE.

The preservation of this ordinary lime tree is important to the whole neighbourhood because it closes the vista down Tite Street (see page 26).

THE CHELSEA SOCIETY

founded by Reginald Blunt in 1927
to protect and foster the amenities of Chelsea

President

THE EARL CADOGAN, M.C.

Vice-Presidents

THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR OF CHELSEA
GENERAL SIR HARRY KNOX, K.C.B., D.S.O.
GENERAL SIR BERNARD PAGET, G.C.B., D.S.O., M.C.

Council

Chairman BASIL MARSDEN-SMEDLEY, ESQ., O.B.E.

FREDERICK ADAM, ESQ., C.M.G.
E. J. CHAPMAN, ESQ.
CHARLES CLAY, ESQ., C.B., F.S.A.
CAPTAIN C. G. T. DEAN, M.B.E.
SIR GAVIN DE BEER, F.R.S.
CAPTAIN RICHARD EDWARDS, R.N., L.C.C.
WALTER H. GODFREY, ESQ., C.B.F., F.S.A., F.R.I.B.A.
MISS DOROTHY MACNAMARA
W. A. MARTIN, ESQ.
THE HON. SIR ALBERT NAPIER, K.C.B., K.C.V.O., Q.C.
MISS MAUD PELHAM, O.B.E., J.P.
THE HON. DOROTHY PICKFORD, O.B.E., J.P.
J. M. RICHARDS, ESQ.
SIR ARTHUR RICHMOND, C.B.E.
R. L. STEWART-JONES, ESQ.
MISS DOROTHY STROUD
GRAHAME B. TUBBS, ESQ., F.R.I.B.A.
CAPTAIN E. L. WARRE

Hon. Treasurer

MAJOR E. D. HALTON

Hon. Auditor

R. J. V. ASTELL, ESQ.

Joint Hon. Secretaries

H. CLARE O'RORKE, ESQ.
MISS HILDA REID.

Secretary

MISS JOAN MERRIMAN

Address

THE HONORARY SECRETARY,
THE CHELSEA SOCIETY,
46, Tedworth Square, Chelsea, S.W.3.

OBJECTS OF THE SOCIETY

(1) To maintain all features of Chelsea having beauty or historical interest, unless a proved necessity requires their removal.

(2) To preserve the open spaces for the health of the community.

(3) Where clearances are necessary, to promote the construction of substituted buildings that will be a credit to Chelsea.

(4) To prevent the disfigurement of streets and open spaces by ugly advertisements or otherwise.

(5) To protect the residents from smoke, noises and other nuisances arising from industrial premises; and generally.

(6) To preserve and amplify the amenities of Chelsea.

Early information is of the greatest importance for effective action, and members are asked to inform the Council at once, through the Hon. Secretary, of any plans or proposals of which they may hear that seem to come within the scope of the objects of the Society.

The Council would consider such matters, obtain further information, and, if thought advisable, make such suggestions or protests on behalf of the Society as seem to them desirable.

CONDITIONS OF MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to all who agree with the objects of the Society, on payment of either

(a) a life subscription, without an entrance fee, of £5 5s. 0d.; or

(b) An entrance fee of 10s. and annual subscription of 10s. which, it is requested, might be paid by banker's order.

It is hoped that, whenever possible, more than the prescribed minimum subscription will be given.

The subscription year runs from the 1st February.

CONTENTS

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

THE CHELSEA SOCIETY

Chairman's Report for 1955

THE MAYOR OF CHELSEA

The Society would wish to congratulate Mr. A. J. Sims on becoming Mayor of Chelsea. Following the practice of his predecessors, the Mayor has agreed to become a Vice-President during his term of office.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

In the afternoon of April 1, 1955, the Annual General Meeting of the Chelsea Society took place at Crosby Hall. Minutes of the meeting are to be found on pages 82 to 85. An account of the polished and scintillating address delivered by Lord Esher is given on page 81.

SECRETARIAL ARRANGEMENTS

Hitherto secretarial assistance has been supplied through the good offices of Mr. Martin, formerly Honorary Secretary to the Society, but pressure of work has obliged Mr. Martin to inform the Council of the Society of difficulties in his continuing to provide this assistance. Mr. Martin has been thanked for providing these facilities for so long.

The Society have now been fortunate in obtaining Lady Reid's kind consent to allow her house, No. 46, Tedworth Square, S.W., to be used as the address of the Society. The Society will wish to thank Miss Hilda Reid (the author of a history of Christchurch Parish) for accepting the appointment of Joint Honorary Secretary. Miss Joan Derriman, (another member of the Society) has kindly accepted the post of part-time Secretary as from October 6th, 1955.

PHYSIC GARDEN: CURATOR'S HOUSE AND LECTURE ROOMS.
From a painting by the architect William Railton *circa* 1850.
Reproduced by courtesy of the British Museum (Natural History) South Kensington.

SUMMER MEETING AT THE CHELSEA PHYSIC GARDEN

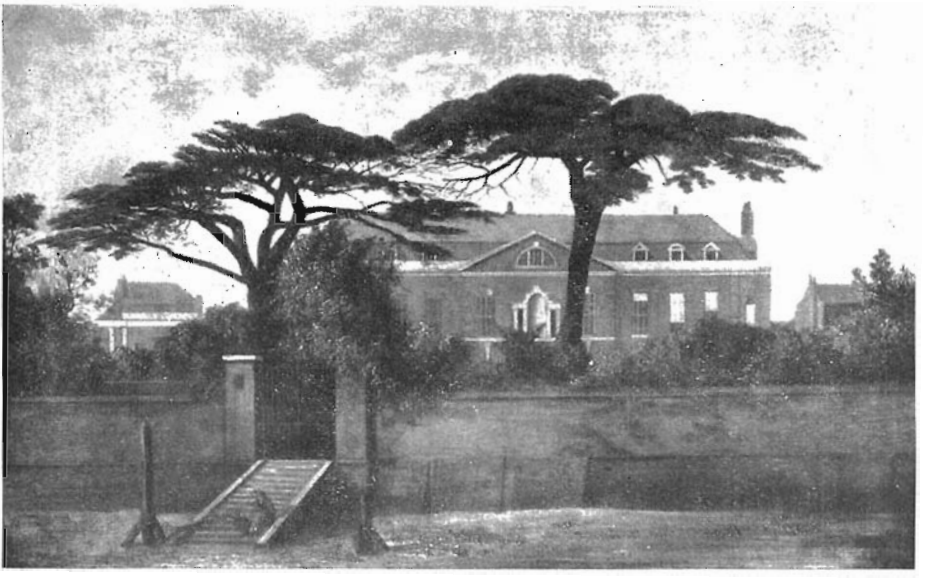
Perfect weather shone down upon the Society's Summer Meeting, as Members and their guests streamed into the Chelsea Physic Garden on the afternoon of Saturday, July 23, 1955. From a table set beneath an old Catalpa tree, programmes of the Meeting, printed in the format of the pre-war summer meeting programmes, were distributed. They contained a history of the garden, main points to notice, and a note on the famous library. Here, there and everywhere, were Mr. MacKenzie, his family and staff answering questions and indicating points of interest. How richly they deserved, and fully received, the admiration of all. Some Members wandered or sat about in the brilliant sunshine, from time to

time turning to the points of historical or botanical interest. Others competed in a sort of "scavenger hunt", in which the aim was to find every structure or specimen listed in the programme as deserving of notice.

The Society was honoured by a most hospitable invitation to tea with a United States diplomat, Mr. Evan Wilson, and his charming wife, at their house, No. 6, Swan Walk. Mrs. Wilson was a most welcoming and untiring hostess, although twice as many guests as were expected crossed Swan Walk to her house.

Back in the Physic Garden, a particular attraction was the display of books and pictures in the Library. In addition to those already there, Sir Gavin de Beer arranged that three interesting paintings, by the architect William Railton (1800-1877), showing the Physic Garden as it was in the mid-nineteenth century, before the construction of Chelsea Embankment or Royal Hospital Road, or the decease of the two last cedar trees, should be lent for the occasion by the British Museum (South Kensington). Two of these pictures show the former principal building containing the Curator's house and lecture rooms (see illustrations on pages 8 and 10). At the close of the century, it was demolished to enable Royal Hospital Road to be widened. And so perished yet another structure, which any scale of values taking into account the things which appeal to the mind in preference to the needs of traffic, would have preserved. It is seen in the pictures as a fine classical structure, so suitable to the surrounding garden as to appear to grow there almost more naturally than some of the weird botanical specimens from the ends of the earth. The present Curator's house and lecture rooms were put up in 1902. The third picture looks south towards the river through the two remaining cedar trees (see illustration on page 11).

The thanks of the Society have been conveyed to the Committee of Management through Sir Donald Allen, to Mr. and Mrs. MacKenzie, their family and staff, to Mr. and Mrs. Evan Wilson, and to Sir Gavin de Beer.



PHYSIC GARDEN: OLD WATERGATE AND CURATOR'S HOUSE AND LECTURE ROOM SEEN THROUGH THE CEDAR TREES.

From a painting by the architect William Railton *circa* 1850.

Reproduced by courtesy of the British Museum (Natural History) South Kensington.

The following is a typical comment; it comes from Sir Geoffrey Peto, (1) who writes: —

> "I feel that I must write you a note of gratitude for that delightful visit to the Physic Garden. I have passed it hundreds of times and always longed to be allowed to go in. Needless to say, I was much interested in all that I saw and admired the practical way in which the beds were arranged from the botanical point of view. The end of July is a particularly difficult time for the ordinary garden-lover like myself, because the glories of spring and summer are past and autumn has not asserted itself. However, though one missed those lovely cedars, there was the largest specimen of the Maidenhair Tree (*Ginko biloba*) that I have ever seen. It is, of course, a prehistoric Chinese tree and can always be recognised because, like Peter Pan, it never grows up, but its foliage consists of the little pairs of flat leaves with which most other seedlings start life."

(1) While this report was being prepared for printing, the Society will have heard with deep regret of the death of Sir Geoffrey Peto.

Historical Notes about the Physic Garden

The Chelsea Physic Garden is one of the most notable gardens in the world; indeed, apart from that in Oxford, it has a longer history than any other garden in this country.

Through the centuries, since it was started by the Society of Apothecaries in 1673, it has attracted many famous botanists, including the celebrated Swedes Linnaeus and his pupil Kalm. Eminent botanists of this country who have in one way or another been connected with the Physic Garden include Petiver, Sherard, Sloane, Banks, Curtis, Lindley and Hooker. For a full account of the history of the Garden, members should refer to the Society's Annual Report, 1947, or to F. Dawtrey Drewitt's *The Romance of the Apothecaries Garden* (London, 1922).

Physic Garden: Cedar Trees.
From a painting by the architect William Railton *circa* 1850.
Reproduced by courtesy of the British Museum (Natural History) South Kensington.

The Garden is now vested in the Trustees of the London Parochial Charities, and is administered by a Committee of Management, on which the historic link with the Apothecaries Society is maintained. The Garden, with its famous trees, retains much of its old-world amenity, though nowadays it is used principally for the teaching of, and research by, botany students, of whom some four thousand pass through its gates annually, and the yearly supply of about a hundred thousand botanical specimens to teaching bodies, and thus cannot be indiscriminately opened to the public. Indeed, the first thing to be noticed is that the plants in the larger part of the garden are arranged for study rather than ornament.

THE WARDIAN CASE IN THE PHYSIC GARDEN.
Invented in 1834 by Nathaniel Ward, Examiner at the Physic Garden, to protect plants from harmful atmosphere, salt spray, wind and snow (see page 13).

The central feature is, of course, the statue of Sir Hans Sloane by Michael Risbrack, which was set up by the Society of Apothecaries in 1733. Sir Hans Sloane, who had purchased the Manor of Chelsea in 1712, in 1722 conveyed the Physic Garden in perpetual lease to the Society of Apothecaries. Another feature of historical interest is the Barge House. Unfortunately, it suffered from bombing in World War II; but it has been rebuilt as garden sheds. Originally, there were berths for three barges. It was there the Apothecaries Company kept their own modest State barge of four oars, while leasing the two remaining berths to other city companies; but it had not been used as a barge-house for at least 150 years.

The Physic Garden Wardian Case

An interesting object in the Physic Garden is the Wardian Case, so called after its inventor, Nathaniel Ward, afterwards Examiner at the Physic Garden (see illustration on page 12). Although the Wardian Case was used primarily for the transportation of living plants throughout the world in diverse climatic conditions, the principle has also been used to construct small enclosures, such as that at Chelsea Physic Garden, for the cultivation of plants which need protection from the polluted atmosphere of great cities. Before the invention, there were no means by which plants or shrubs could be carried long distances by sea. Similar cases carried tea plants from China to Assam, young Cinchona trees (quinine) from South America to India, and rubber plants from South America to Malay. The invention made possible the transplantation of rare and inaccessible shrubs of great potential utility to places where they could be grown under British protection, for the greater benefit of mankind.

Nathaniel Ward was a devoted lover of nature. As a boy, he used to go very early in the morning to Wimbledon Common and other open spaces to watch birds and collect flowers. One day, Ward had buried the chrysalis of a large

moth in earth in a wide-mouthed bottle. He placed the bottle in a window and waited for the chrysalis to hatch. Then he noticed that little plants began to sprout and grow in the bottle, which admitted sunlight but shut out all draughts. So a larger "Wardian case" was made. Plants throve in it. Friends were told of it; leading botanists and horticulturists concerned with the transport of living plants applauded Ward's technique; Faraday lectured on it at the Royal Institution; and Ward wrote his book *The Growth of Plants in Closely Glazed Cases* (1842; 2nd Ed. 1852). Ward had proved that plants could be protected from salt spray, wind and snow, and that they required no water. The result was that ample supplies of tea, rubber, quinine and other commodities became available to meet the growing world demand.

THE CHINA TREE IN THE PHYSIC GARDEN.
Koelreuteria paniculata
A reminder of the debt owed to the ancient gardens of China.

CHINESE GOLDEN CYPRESS IN THE PHYSIC GARDEN.
Metasequoia glyptostroboides
First discovered as a living Tree in 1945 in the province of Hupeh, Central China; previously known only as a fossil.

PHYSIC GARDEN TREES

Many trees of great interest grow in the Physic Garden. Those who are on the lookout for unusual trees suitable for planting in London gardens paid particular attention to the China-tree (*Koelreuteria paniculata*), a reminder of the debt owed to the ancient gardens of China (see illustration on page 14). A more recent import from China is the Chinese Golden Cypress (*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*) from the Central Province of Hupeh (see illustration above). Its existence as a living tree was first discovered in 1945; previously it was known only as a fossil.

Great interest was aroused by a rare and spectacular tree

flourishing exceedingly well in defiance of the London atmosphere. It was the One-leaved Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior var. heterophylla*). One of the original trees of the garden, it had reached a great size. Another tree might be useful for planting in London gardens is the Persimmon (*Diospyros virginiana*). This is the Virginian Date Plum; the fruit, which is edible, is yellow in colour and about an inch in diameter. The Physic Garden specimen was much admired.

Among the trees which owe their survival to care and attention are the Cork Oak (*Quercus suber*) and the Olive tree (*Olea europaea*). The English Yew tree (*Taxus baccata*), modest as it is in size compared with yews to be found in the countryside, has been mentioned by numerous botanical authors as the largest in London. The fact is that yews do not do well in London and this tree, like the Cork Oak and Olive Tree and many others, is a credit to the Physic Garden and the great tradition of its gardeners. Another angle of interest came from the small Oriental Plane (*Platanus orientalis*) from the island of Cos, where Hippocrates is said to have taught under such another. It was the gift of the Greek Medical Association to the British Medical Association, and was planted in 1951. Members of the Society were reminded of William Forsyth, curator of the Physic Garden, 1770 to 1780, by the *Forsythia,* which was brought with a *Wistaria* from Japan by Robert Fortune, curator 1846 to 1848.

Physic Garden Library

There was a most interesting display of rare books (and the original inventory) from the Garden's Collection. A meeting was held in 1739, at which Sir Hans Sloane, Philip Miller (who was curator 1722 to 1770 and lived at 1, Swan Walk) and Isaac Rand were present to discuss their housing and arrangement. The books were moved in 1832 to the Apothecaries' Hall and returned to the Physic Garden in 1954. Expert advice was obtained on their restoration and preservation; and the Committee of Management are to be congratulated on their condition.

Among the books shown were:--

Philip Miller's *Gardeners Dictionary* (2nd Edition 1733 and other editions).

Hans Sloane's *Voyage to Jamaica* (1707 to 1725; Two Volumes).

Elizabeth Blackwell's *Curious Herbal* (1782; first published 1739).

Thomas Moore's *Ferns of Great Britain and Ireland*. (1855).

Thomas Moore was curator of the Chelsea Physic Garden 1848 to 1887; Elizabeth Blackwell illustrated her *Curious Herbal* from her house in Swan Walk.

THOMAS MORE LECTURE

On November 3, 1955 Mr. Richard O'Sullivan, Q.C., Recorder of Derby, gave a lecture at Crosby Hall, entitled *Thomas More: Traitor or Saint?* The Chelsea Society (as such) did not sponsor this lecture as they did the one delivered by Lord Russell of Killowen, in 1935, but the members were circularised and your Chairman invited to preside. A collection was made after the lecture, and the proceeds (after paying expenses) went to the Crosby Hall Rebuilding Fund. There was a very large attendance. The Hall was rearranged, so that the lecture was given from the North end, which enabled the audience to see the picture of *Sir Thomas More and his family*, presented by the Society in memory of Reginald Blunt; this arrangement also allowed the gallery to be used as an overflow for the crowded hall. The lecturer dealt principally with the trial of Thomas More from the legal angle, and described the event which led to his canonisation in this century. The short account which follows has been compiled in conjunction with Mr. Richard O'Sullivan.

On Thursday, July 1, 1535, 'a certain Thomas More, lately of Chelsea', appeared at the King's Bench in Westminster Hall, before 15 Commissioners, Lord Audley, the Lord Chancellor presiding, to stand his trial for treason. The first article of

the Indictment charged him with having maliciously refused in the Tower of London to answer the question put to him by Thomas Cromwell and others on behalf of King Henry VIII, which asked whether he accepted the King as Supreme Head of the Church in England.

The second and third Articles charged him with communications with Bishop John Fisher (held on life sentence) in which he 'maliciously upheld his wicked attitude' and encouraged John Fisher to refuse an opinion on the Supremacy and having induced him to 'liken the Act to a two-edged sword'.

The fourth Article charged More with having in conversation with Richard Rich, one of the prosecuting counsel, maliciously deprived the King of his titles as Supreme Head of the Church in England.

Thomas More objected to the first Article in point of law, saying: 'You do not indict a man for silence'. As to the second and third, he said that the letters should be produced and openly read in evidence, explaining that he had merely told John Fisher that he had informed and settled his own conscience and had advised him to do likewise.

In answer to the fourth Article—uncorroborated evidence of Richard Rich given on oath before the jury, (though he was prosecuting counsel) 'In good faith Master Rich, I am sorrier for your perjury than I am for my own peril. I have known you from your youth hitherto and (I am sorry you compel me to say it) you were always esteemed very light of your tongue, a common liar, and so in the Temple were you likewise accounted'. He then turned to the Lords Commissioners and asked whether it were likely that he would disclose to such a man the opinion he had always withheld from the King and his noble Counsellors. Yet, within 15 minutes, the frightened jury found Thomas More guilty of all four charges, and notwithstanding legal submissions, he was forthwith sentenced to death. Lord Campbell (*Lives of Lords Chancellors Vol.* I *p.* 571) writes: 'We must still regard

his murder as the blackest crime that ever has been perpetrated in England under the forms of law'.

In December 1886 a Roman Decree of Beatification of More and Fisher was published. In 1934 a petition with 170,000 signatures (including those of many distinguished non-Roman Catholic Englishmen) was presented to Pope Pius XI, and later a Solemn Decree stating that, even without further signs of miracles, it was possible to proceed to the final stages of canonisation. The Ceremony of Canonisation took place in Rome on May 19, 1935.

RECITAL OF MUSIC AND POETRY

A Recital of Music and Poetry was given at Crosby Hall on December 1st, in aid of the Rebuilding of the Old Church. As a result, the sum of £37 has been paid into the funds.

To give an idea of the wide range of religious poetry and music in England from the fourteenth century to the present time, the programme is printed in full:

THE FOURTEENTH TO THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY

Worldes Blis	*Early English*
The Opening to *Piers Plowman*	*William Langland*
I sing of a maiden	*Anon. 15th cent.*
A Lullaby	*Anon. 15th cent.*
The Seven Virgins	*Anon. 16th cent.*
Amoretti—Sonnet 68	*Edmund Spenser*
To music bent is my retirèd mind	*Thomas Campion*
If I could shut the gate	*John Daniel*
From his version of *The Litany*	*John Donne*
Hymn to God the Father	*John Donne*
Angelicus coeli chorus	*Mathias Weckman*
The Burning Babe	*Robert Southwell*
A Carol	*Edmund Bolton*
The Angels for the Nativity	*William Drummond*
Sweet was the Song	*John Attey*
To his Saviour, a Child; a Present, by a Child	*Robert Herrick*
Grace for Children	*Robert Herrick*
Quickness	*Henry Vaughan*
Virtue	*George Herbert*
Love bade me welcome	*George Herbert*
At a Solemn Musick	*John Milton*
We Sing to Him	*Purcell*

(figured bass realized by Christopher Shaw)

THE EIGHTEENTH TO THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

An Evening Hymn	*Purcell*
The Divine Image	*William Blake*
Night	*William Blake*
Lines	*Lord Tennyson*
Drifting Away	*Charles Kingsley*
God's Grandeur	*G. M. Hopkins*
The Starlight Night	*G. M. Hopkins*
The Kingdom of God	*Francis Thompson*
The Call	*Vaughan Williams*
I am the Way	*Alice Meynell*
But Mary Pondered	*Juanita Peirse*
I come in the little things	*Evelyn Underhill*
Sheep and Lambs	*Katharine Tynan*
The New Ghost	*Fredegond Shove*
A Chorus from *The Rock*	*T. S. Eliot*
Alleluia—Deus judere justus	

The warm thanks of the Society are due to John Carroll who chose, arranged and produced this interesting programme, and to those who gave their services so willingly and skilfully. The readers were Maureen Robinson, June Franklin, Humphrey Gilbert and Redvers Kyle: the musicians, Trevor Ling (baritone) and Christopher Shaw at the pianoforte.

The Society is grateful to all who helped in the organisation and in supporting the Recital, and especially to the Chelsea Poetry Circle, who have done so much in Chelsea to further the knowledge and appreciation of poetry.

Mary Oake writes—

> I cannot attempt to analyse the effect on me of the Recital of Music and Poetry given on the bitter night of December 1st. I can say that I liked the direct unaffected speech of the speakers, that the singer transformed the room into a cloister. I can add that it seemed there were other listeners beside those one could see. For me the earliest anonymous poems have an exquisite grace which is unsurpassed. Yet how interesting it was to compare the mighty voice of John Donne with the soaring ecstatic quality of Gerard Manley Hopkins. Who could do without the homely notes of George Herbert or the warm light of Henry Vaughan? And sweet Robin Herrick still presents his nosegays with perhaps a slightly impish smile.
>
> With the eighteenth century we pass into a climate where Protestantism has had time to make its effect; to a realm in which the simpler approach from the mundane towards the spiritual world, rather than the other way round, is more

apparent. Of the poems in this second half of the programme, Katherine Tynan's 'Sheep and Lambs' lingered in my memory for days afterwards, for in it the two halves of creation meet so simply, that it seems strange that the contact is ever lost.

I was glad that the singer came last with his evocative voice to lift us to Heaven. And as I walked up the street I thought I saw a bare tree burst into bloom.

HISTORY IN EMBROIDERY EXHIBITION

An exhibition of new embroideries for Chelsea Old Church in aid of the rebuilding fund is in course of arrangement. It is to be held at The Royal Hospital by kind permission of the Governor. It will be open from 10.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. on weekdays (Thursdays till 8 p.m.) between May 22 and June 9, 1956. It will not be open, however, on May 8; and not on Sundays.

THE ROYAL COURT THEATRE, SLOANE SQUARE

Members will be interested to hear that the Royal Court Theatre is about to enter on a new lease of life. At a time when no new theatres are being built and the number for the public presentation of plays is being reduced, it is exciting to hear of a new stage venture. The new lessees of the Royal Court Theatre are the English Stage Company, a company limited not for profit; that is to say, the income and property will be applied solely to further the dramatic aims of the company. It is proposed to pay particular attention to the production of plays by modern dramatists. The programme of the first season will open on April 2, 1956.

MARKHAM HOUSE

During the summer the Society received many complaints about the alterations which were being made to Markham House on the corner of King's Road and Markham Square, and the use to which it was proposed to put those premises. Markham House is, or perhaps more acurately was, a fine example of a dwelling-house put up in the first part of the

last century. Architecturally, it had an admirable approach; that is to say a central entrance with rooms on either side, having a south aspect looking down Smith Street. The rooms to the east of the entrance still have an elegant, shallow, round, bay window. The rooms to the west of the entrance had before the alterations took place flush windows. All the windows had well proportioned glazing bars and were in good proportion to the facade. The entrance and the window to the west of it was completely demolished in September, the wall taken out and replaced by a shop front. At the same time the railings, which were a feature of the place, were removed and the forecourt thrown into the footway. Many regrets were expressed at the destruction of yet another landmark of old Chelsea, the elegance and suitability of which gave pleasure to so many Chelsea people.

Assuming Markham House is no longer suitable as a residence, since it faces directly on to the King's Road, an admirable purpose would be that for which it had been used in recent years; namely, a solicitor's office. It is not suitable for a coffee bar, although a town planning application to use the basement for this purpose has been granted; still less for a night club for which a town planning application has been refused, following a protest by the Society. It should be remembered that although Markham House faces the King's Road, there is a substantial side of the building abutting on to Markham Square. Markham Square is a desirable and rare residential phenomenon, since most, if not all, of the houses are small freeholds. Already other coffee bars in the neighbourhood have been the subject matter of complaint; they remain open to all hours of the night. Nothing is more disturbing than the drone of voices and the noise of laughter from the substantial number of people using coffee bars or night clubs; in particular, when they disperse in the quiet of the late evening or early morning. Moreover these places are magnets for motor cars. Nuisance arises, not only from parked cars, but particularly from the noise of slammed car doors and "revving up" of engines when the owners depart.

Obviously coffee bars supply a contemporary public need. Possibly the one in question should be regarded more as restaurant; but coffee bars in general provide a place where, at any rate, young people can meet one another at no great expense; an alternative, in fact, to the more expensive pub or cinema. In many cases the decor is an admirable example of contemporary feeling and ingenuity. One cannot quarrel with coffee bars in principle; but the moral is that they ought not to be located so close to residential areas that they cause a nuisance.

ALBERT BRIDGE

The Society have given preliminary consideration to the proposal of the London County Council to rebuild Albert Bridge some time in the not too near future. They have expressed the view to the London County Council that the Bridge, despite its present traffic limitations, is a useful local means of crossing the river, and particularly because it affords Chelsea people ready pram and pedestrian access to Battersea Park. They feel, however, that any endeavour to enlarge its traffic scope would be of no advantage to overcoming London traffic difficulties in view of the traffic cuts at Chelsea Embankment, King's Road and Fulham Road, and would have great disadvantages from the point of view of local amenities. The Society, therefore, in connection with the problem of approaches, asked to be assured that no demolitions of Chelsea property would result, and hoped that the London County Council would bear in mind that the neighbourhood was residential and contained many buildings of architectural and historic interest. Furthermore, the Society asked whether they might be informed of proposals affecting amenities in Chelsea at a sufficiently early stage to enable comments to be taken into account. Lastly, the Society expressed the view that they were concerned to see that all necessary steps were taken to ensure that (a) the design of the new bridge, if it is indeed necessary to reconstruct it, should be a credit to the

locality, and (b) suitable historic records were kept of the appearance of the present bridge. The London County Council have sent a most courteous reply, saying that plans for the proposed new Albert Bridge were not yet sufficiently advanced to enable comment on the possibility or extent of any demolition of property to be made. They assured the Society, however, that due consideration would be given, when details of the proposal were being worked out, to the local factors involved, and that adequate records of the old structure would be kept. They informed the Society that they appreciated the concern for the preservation of the amenities of Chelsea and, in particular, its buildings of architectural and historical interest. They went on to say that, while it would not be practicable to give the Society information of all proposals affecting such amenities, the Society could be assured that this point of view would not be overlooked.

CHELSEA EMBANKMENT TREES

On October 7, 1955, your Council had before them a press report regarding proposals of the Chelsea Borough Council in regard to trees on the Chelsea Embankment.

The Chelsea Embankment avenue of plane trees is a subject on its own, and should not be considered in relation to other Chelsea trees. The cardinal principle should be to preserve the avenue. Here the chief points are the continuity of the avenue, the size of the trees, which should be large in order to be in scale with their surroundings, and their shapes, which should be dictated by their natural habits of growth.

The London plane (*Platanus orientalis acerifolia*), when properly treated, is unrivalled as a street tree. It is a safe tree, hardy and deeply rooted, not likely to be blown down in gales or liable to shed its branches like some other species. It is also ornamental. Beautiful in summer, it is still more beautiful in winter, with its delicate pendulous branches and

decorative seed balls; and, when its habits of growth are respected, its shape conforms particularly well to architectural surroundings, because it is lofty rather than spreading and its foliage is far less dense than that of other hard woods.

The planes on Chelsea Embankment, in order to display their full beauty, certainly need attention. Most of the trees have reached a size when it is desirable to fell alternate ones, where this has not been done already. When the trees are sufficiently tall, all branches below the lighting wires should be removed. The upper branches require considerable thinning by removal close to the trunk, the wound being tarred to prevent sprouting; the final object being to allow the bark to occlude, thus removing all trace where the branch once grew. But "lopping" or chopping off branches at some distance from the trunk must be avoided. Successive pre-war Annual Reports of the Society complain of the inept treatment of the avenue, including "lopping" and even "beheading". Many trees are still suffering from this clumsy or misguided amputation. This practice encourages excrescences at the branch ends which ruin the natural appearance of the tree and eventually defeat the purpose of the lopping by producing a dense growth obstructing all visibility, light and air.

The Chelsea Borough Council were, therefore, asked to bear the above considerations in mind when considering the matter of the Chelsea Embankment avenue.

CARE AND MAINTENANCE OF CHELSEA TREES

The Council of the Society considered problems arising from the care and maintenance of public trees in Chelsea.

The Society have for years past continually received suggestions and complaints from Chelsea residents about the treatment of Chelsea trees. The suggestions have been numerous, detailed, often very carefully considered and sometimes, of course, conflicting. The complaints have mainly been directed at what is conceived to be the wrong choice of

trees, wrong siting, wrong planting, wrong methods of pruning and, above all, at the tendency to deal with trees individually without reference to any relationship with their surroundings.

It is obvious that many Chelsea people, very rightly, regard this whole question as being of great importance, and that they feel strongly about it; the conclusion was inescapable that much criticism of the Borough Council, whether such criticism is reasonable or not, could be avoided in future, if the Borough Council could see their way to arrange to procure qualified professional advice on the subject of trees. It is submitted that, though a Borough Surveyor may happen to be an expert on the choice, planting and care of trees, it is hardly fair to expect that he automatically will be. Whether his is or not, the Borough Council would be in a much stronger position if they could say that they had taken expert qualified advice. Apart from this, it was felt that problems regarding trees in the Borough have reached a critical stage and that the best professional advice (as distinct from the recommendations of tree pruning firms) can no longer be dispensed with.

For this reason, the view has been expressed to the Borough Council that, before bringing forward any suggestions on matters of detail, a professional qualified expert, not only in tree care and maintenance but also in landscape planning and allied subjects, should be called in when required.

THE TITE STREET TREE

In the garden behind No. 4, Chelsea Embankment stands the Tite Street Tree (see frontispiece). It is a well grown Lime (*Tilia europæa*). Its importance is that it closes the vista down Tite Street, as owing to a bend, it is almost on the centre-line of the roadway. The Society, therefore, made appropriate representations both to the authorities and the owner. These representations were most courteously received and the owner, who is building himself a house with a garage on the site, has expressed himself as anxious as is the Society to preserve the Tree.

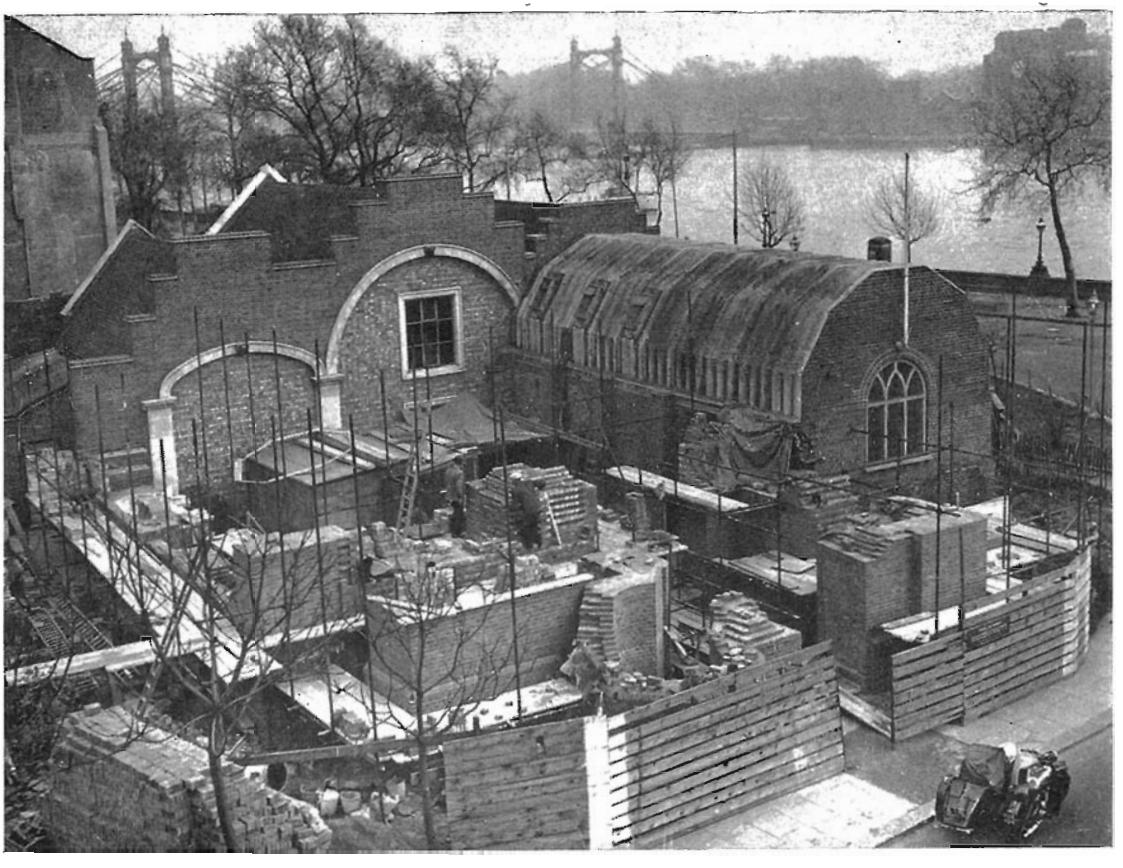
THE REBUILDING OF CHELSEA OLD CHURCH

The Chancel and Lawrence Chapel of Chelsea Old Church were re-hallowed by the Bishop of London on May 4, 1954. The next stage was the examination of the foundations of the Tower and the west and north walls of the Nave. It was found after excavation that the great seventeenth century Tower had been literally rocked to its foundations, and two cracks were found to run right down to the footings. This meant that the foundations had to be completely renewed, and in the first half of 1955 the concrete *substrata* were laid and what remained of the western walls of the old Nave were underpinned.

On September 19, 1955, Messrs. Norman and Burt, of Burgess Hill, Sussex, arrived on the site to start work on the Nave and Tower. A fine Autumn, and marked industry on the part of the workmen, have resulted in an excellent start being made. The north wall of the Nave has risen steadily, and into a section of this has been built the base of the Lady Jane Cheyne monument (1669) (see illustration on page 28).

The first bricks of the new Tower were laid on October 31, and before the end of November young members of the Children's Service were buying their own bricks for half-a-crown, signing them, and laying them under professional supervision.

Over two hundred children have played their part in the rebuilding in this way. Some have bought, signed, and laid more than one brick. Others have performed the ceremony on behalf of an absent brother or sister. So that, embedded in some part of the new Tower are several hundreds of bricks, bearing the names of Chelsea children, written in heavy black crayon—for the mystification of, it is hoped, extremely future archæologists. The B.B.C. added to the excitement by sending down a cameraman on one of the brick-laying days to film the proceedings. The film was later shown in the Children's Newsreel on Television.



THE OLD CHURCH, CHELSEA, IN DECEMBER, 1955.
Progress of Rebuilding.

It is now possible for adults and visitors to the Old Church to buy and sign bricks, and thus participate in the task of rebuilding.

The turret of the Tower is fast taking shape, and no doubt one of the first to climb its winding staircase will be a representative of the firm which maintained the eighteenth century clock for the Chelsea Borough Council before the war.

Five years ago the question on a thousand lips was: "When is the rebuilding going to start?" Now, the oft-repeated question is: "When will the Church be finished?"

There is no doubt that this year will see the work progressing by leaps and bounds. Disappointments and delays in the past make one chary of hazarding any forecasts; and, indeed, further discomforts and overcrowding face the congregation as the progress of the building sweeps away the temporary extension and its familiar asbestos roof, and deprives us of valuable space.

But if it is darkest just before the dawn, so we shall look beyond the problems of the present to the time, not so far distant, when the Old Church will once again stand sentinel with its mighty Tower pointing heavenwards, challenging the "great flood of change" to beat round its walls.

ST. COLUMBA'S

Chelsea is no distance from Scotland; take a bus to Pont Street and look West. There, on the centre line of Pont Street, rises dramatically the tall white tower of the new Church of Scotland.

A miraculous spirit of achievement and many hands (not least among them the architect, Sir Edward Maufe, R.A., a member of the Society) have caused this simple, unadorned building of Portland Stone to rise from the ruins of its bombed predecessor. There could be no greater contrast with the dark

ST. COLUMBA AND HIS CRANE 1955.

purple ornamentation of the Pont Street houses, and nothing more effective than the plain white expanses of the new St. Columba's.

Over the Pont Street entrance is a charming sculpture by Mr. Vernon Hill of St. Columba in his coracle with his crane beside him. The story went that St. Columba was in Iona, oftimes thinking of his old friends in Ireland, when a crane that had flown from Ireland fell exhausted on Iona. St. Columba ordered that the bird be fed and cared for, so that it could fly back to Ireland. And now this much-travelled bird has come to rest in Chelsea. We welcome the bird and St. Columba too; though he is no stranger to Christians in the United Kingdom. The missionary work of very early Christian centres is commemorated by two stones built into the fabric: one from Iona and one from the ancient cathedral of St. Andrew's.

St. Columba's Church is much more than a place of worship. It provides for many ancillary church activities. There are offices, flats for the church staff, committee rooms, a large meeting hall with a stage, and kitchens for serving food. The problem of how to cook the Sunday luncheon and go to church is solved here, for 120 lunches are served every Sunday after morning worship.

There is little ornament on the white interior walls of the church. The piers and the tall arches of the Nave and aisles give an effect of strength and simplicity which is essentially Scottish. At the end of the nave is the arched Sanctuary with the Holy Table, and seats for the Elders.

As one steps out again from Scotland into Pont Street and looks back at the white tower, capped with its Scottish shaped roof of dark green Westmorland slates, one is again impressed with the illusion that a fane from over the border has alighted in Pont Street. St. Columba's is the most notable building to be completed in Chelsea since the war, and it has already acquired a character of its own.

BRUNEL HOUSE.
Flats designed for the Chelsea Borough Council by Frederick MacManus to be in harmony with adjoining 18th century houses in Cheyne Walk.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE BRUNEL HOUSE SITE

In Brunel House, the new flats at the corner of Milman Street and Cheyne Walk, Chelsea has been favoured with an admirable example of a building in contemporary idiom yet in keeping with its 18th century neighbours. These flats were built to the design of Armstrong and MacManus for the Chelsea Borough Council. They are let at unsubsidised rents to tenants in slightly higher income groups than those for whom subsidised housing is provided. The building has been planned on a shallow convex curve to Cheyne Walk. The flats, or at least those on the first floor and above, have one of the finest views in Chelsea.

The Society have been deeply involved in the development of this site and in the design of Brunel House. Originally

the proposals for the Cremorne Estate envisaged the destruction of the entire fringe of houses on the Cheyne Walk frontage, some of them being fine examples of 18th century architecture and all, with the exception of Nos. 105, 105A and B, and 106 being sound and desirable residences. It involved the eviction of some 239 supposedly contented and self-supporting occupants. Instead, small blocks of two-storey subsidised flats were to be built, the general lay-out being reminiscent of the undistinguished "by pass architecture" of pre-war days. On vigorous representations from the Society and the Georgian Group a reprieve was granted to the Cheyne Walk fringe. No. 105 Cheyne Walk, at the corner of Milman Street, though a fine example of 18th century architecture, was unfortunately stated to be so riddled with dry rot that there was no alternative to demolition. Next to it were two brick houses Nos. 105A and B, built in 1878 which, though sound, were depressingly ugly. Next to these was the site of No. 106 Cheyne Walk occupied as a petrol station and garage. The Chelsea Society and the Georgian Group agreed, therefore, that this site should be cleared, provided it was replaced by a terrace of houses in harmony with Nos. 107, 108 and 109 Cheyne Walk. Later, in view of the what was stated to be demand, it was agreed that flats and not houses should be built; and the Borough Council approved the plans. The Ministry of Housing and Local Government refused, however, to sanction the building, until the approval of the Society and the Georgian Group had been sought and obtained by the Borough Council. The Borough Council, therefore, invited the Society to approve the design. The Council of the Society then appointed Mr. J. M. Richards as their representative. Mr. Richards inspected the plans with Mr. Frederick MacManus, and the highly creditable designs were thereupon happily agreed.

Design of Brunel House

There is room for controversy in the stipulation that Brunel House should be "in harmony with Nos. 107, 108 and 109"

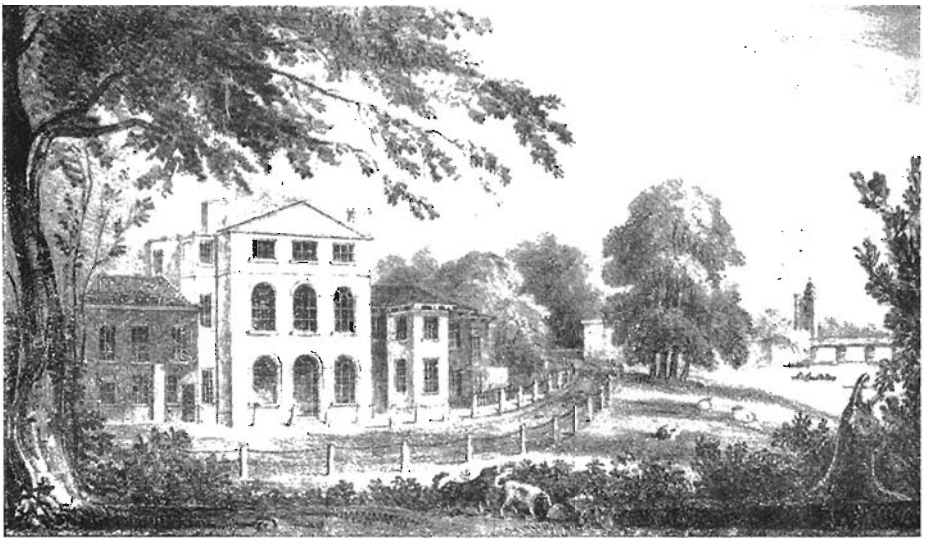
It is felt, however, that the Society and the architects correctly interpreted "harmony" not as meaning reproduction of every detail of the adjoining 18th century buildings, but by keeping the design equally simple in character and in scale with them; by keeping window heads and parapet walls as near as possible in line; and by using similar facing materials. The bricks are an excellent match, and the recessed balconies divide the façade into three vertical masses creating the illusion of a continuation of the Terrace; yet nothing in the appearance takes away from the impression that Brunel House is a fine example of the architecture of 1955.

THE LINDSEY ROW—1955.
Nos. 97 and 98 Cheyne Walk, now joined together.
Note the recent classically-framed historical inscription
(see page 35).

To the east, the houses in Lindsey Row, as it was once called, are too well known to call for anything but passing comment. The Brunels, father and son, lived at No. 98 Cheyne Walk from before 1811 until after 1826. An unexceptionable, but rather self-conscious, classically-framed stone slab has recently been placed on this house giving salient points from the history of Lindsey Row (see illustration on page 34). It reads as follows:—

LINDSEY HOUSE
BUILT IN 1674
BY ROBERT BERTIE
3RD EARL OF LINDSEY
INCORPORATED
A HOUSE WHICH SIR
THEODORE MAYERNE
COURT PHYSICIAN BUILT
ON THE SITE OF
SIR THOMAS MORE'S FARM
RECONSTRUCTED IN 1752
BY COUNT ZINZENDORF
AS THE LONDON HEAD
QUARTERS OF THE
MORAVIAN BRETHREN
SUBDIVIDED IN 1774
AS 1—7 LINDSEY ROW
ALTERED IN THE 19TH CENTURY
AND AGAIN IN 1952.

To the west of Brunel House are four fine houses, Nos. 107 to 110 Cheyne Walk, three of them excellent 18th Century examples. No. 109 was for fifty years the home of Wilson Steer, O.M.; the large window of his studio can be seen on the top floor. Nos. 111 and 112 have no special merit; but Nos. 113 to 117 contribute much to the picturesqueness of this terrace. They contain some features of architectural interest; but their chief charm is the strong element of the old riverside character of the district. Nos. 118 and 119 are together known as Turner's House, where the painter lived from 1838 to 1851, and where he died "looking upon-



CHELSEA FARM AT THE BEGINNING OF THE 19TH CENTURY.

the sunshine in which he delighted so much, mantling the river and illuminating the sails of the passing boats". (See Annual Report 1954, pages 26 to 29).

In the 1830s the street name "Cheyne Walk" was not used to describe the riverside buildings west of Lawrence Street: instead blocks of houses were known each by a different name. The following is a list from east to west:-

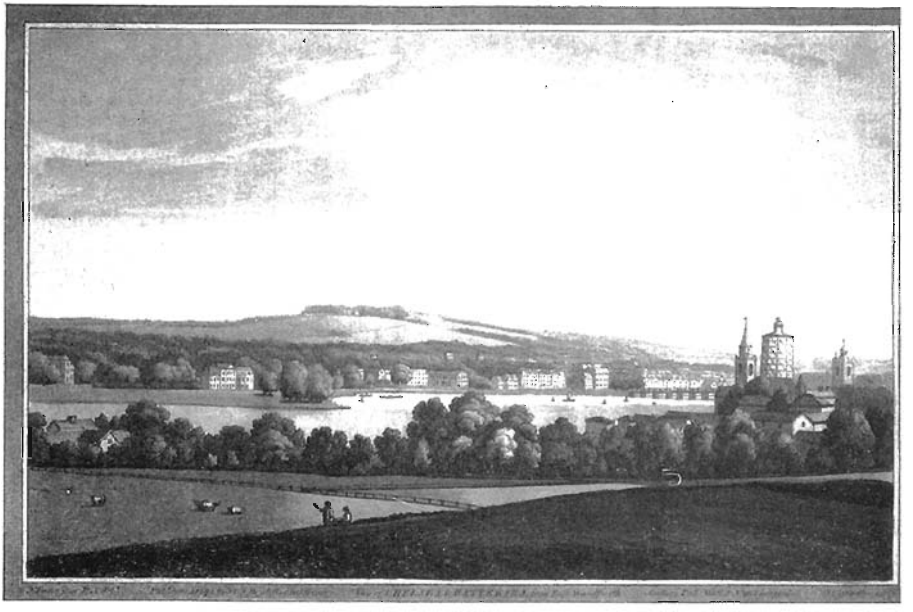
(1) CHURCH ROW OR PROSPECT PLACE.
Here is the old Church.
(2) LOMBARD STREET.
(3) DUKE STREET.
(4) BEAUFORT PLACE.
Here is Belvue House and Lodge.
(5) LINDSEY ROW.
(6) DAVIS PLACE.
(7) KING'S ARMS WHARF.
Open field; no through road.

Of these, Davis Place is the name by which the buildings occupying the site of Brunel House and Nos. 107 to 110 were known at that time. No. 110 was the corner house from which Riley Street led due north, and Worlds End Passage northwest, to the Kings Road; but there was no through riverside road to Lots Lane as it was then known, though there

was a short access way called King's Arms Wharf to the Inn of that name and Turner's House. Beyond that there was a field and then Hob Lane led down from the King's Road to Lots Lane where Seaton Street is to-day. Between Seaton Street and the Kensington Canal three great houses looked out over a lawn with fine trees to the river.

Three Great Houses in Lots Lane

There was Chelsea Farm, an old building of which records going back to the sixteenth century exist, which in 1745 was purchased and built on to by Theophulus, Earl of Huntingdon. It was purchased by Lord Dartry in 1778. He was created Viscount Cremorne in 1785. In 1831, it was purchased by the Baron de Berenger who turned it into a National Club, for skilful and manly exercise, known as The Stadium. In 1841, it was again sold and reopened as Cremorne Gardens. These gardens with their glittering lamps, their grottos, theatre and garish pavilions frequented by Whistler and Greaves, drew a raffish crowd. Though, looking back, they seem a pleasant contrast to the drab streets which replaced them, they lacked the respectability the Victorian age demanded. In 1875 they were closed. Next to Chelsea Farm was a House built in 1747, for Benjamin Hoadley, a physician, and eldest son of the famous Bishop. In front there was a fine lawn shaded by a noble cedar and studded with magnolias and orange trees. Later it was bought by the Earl of Ashburnham and became known as Ashburnham House. Dr. Cadogan, another eminent physician, was the next inhabitant. During the three years of his occupation, the garden became interesting to the medical faculty for the large number of medicinal herbs planted by him. To the west again of Ashburnham House, was Ashburnham Cottage, standing in three acres of garden. Here lived a poet, Mr. Edward Burnaby Greene; and later Miss Eliza Gulston, who helped Faulkner to collect material for his *History of Chelsea* and, as an amateur etcher and artist, executed the drawings which now form the Gulston Collection in the Public Library.



CHELSEA RIVERSIDE WEST OF BATTERSEA BRIDGE.

From a mezzotint by J. A. Stadler in 1795 after a painting by J. Farington, R.A. Note the horizontal air mill next to Battersea Church (see below).

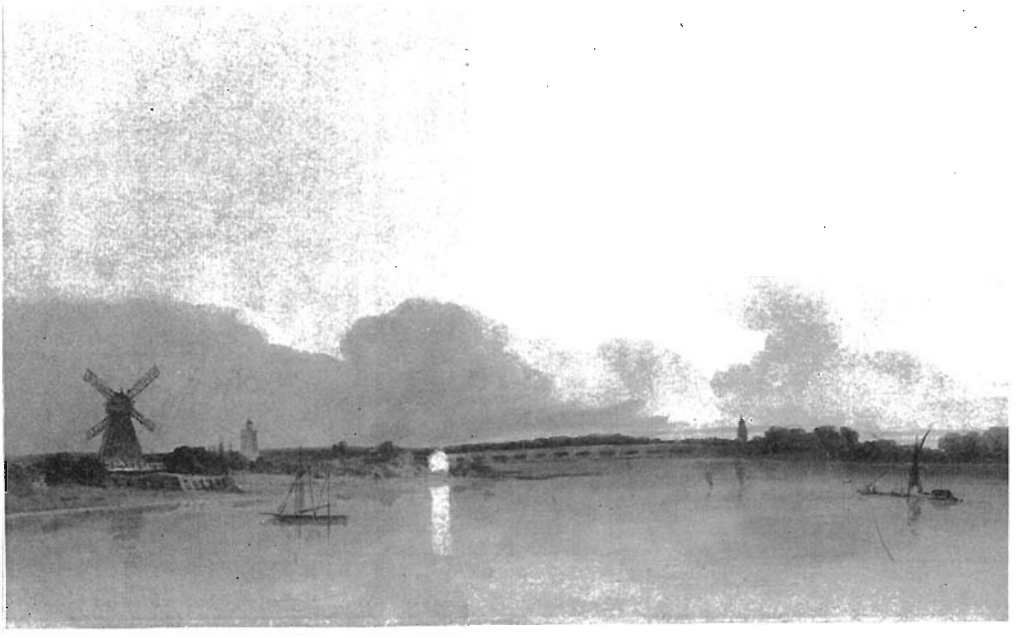
By courtesy of the Chelsea Public Library

GIRTIN'S WHITE HOUSE

There is a mezzotint by J. E. Stadler of the Chelsea riverside west of Battersea Bridge in 1795 after a painting by J. Farington, R.A., in the Chelsea Public Library (see illustration above). It was drawn from high ground in East Wandsworth. It shows Chelsea farm, afterwards called Cremorne House, Ashburnham House and Ashburnham Cottage. It also shows Davis Place, Lindsey Row and Old Battersea Bridge. Victorian writers such as Thomas Miller in *Picturesque Views of Turner and Girtin* (1854) have assumed that Thomas Girtin's famous *White House, Chelsea,* (1800) in the Tate Gallery, depicted this west Chelsea river-

side (see illustration on page 40). In Gaunt's *Chelsea* (1954 page 80) he mentions Chelsea Farm (see illustration on page 36) as being "The White House of Chelsea of Girtin's water colour". In another place page 152, Mr. Gaunt remarks that Thomas Girtin's *White House* "transcends topography". Indeed it does if it depicted Chelsea Farm.

The white house in the picture is seen to the left of the Thames. If, therefore, it was situated in Chelsea, Thomas Girtin must have been looking downstream from the Fulham shore. In this case, as Mr. Gaunt has noticed, none of the features in the landscape, such as Chelsea Old Church, are where one would expect them to be. An exchange of correspondence between your Chairman and Mr. Thomas Girtin, great grandson of the artist, and joint author with Mr. David Loshak, of the magnificent treatise *The Art of Thomas Girtin* (1951) pointed to a different theory, namely that the view was drawn looking upstream from somewhere near where Chelsea Bridge was afterwards built. Mr. Reginald Blunt writing in the Chelsea Society Annual Report 1933—1934 bears out this theory though he was not precise in identifying the features. Mr. Randall Davies, who was a member of the Society in 1933, had published *Thomas Girtin's Water Colours* in 1924, is equally unconvincing in the identification of features in that work. On the hypothesis that Thomas Girtin painted his picture looking upstream from somewhere a little downstream of where both Chelsea and the railway Bridges now stand, at once the other features in the picture spring into place. Windmills which grew where no windmill ever was (presupposing that the picture was drawn from Fulham looking downstream), now on the assumption that it was drawn looking upstream from somewhere near All Saints, Pimlico, fit into the picture with apparent accuracy. Chelsea Old Church can be seen in its proper place, a little to the right of the north end of Battersea Bridge. The White House in the picture now appears in the riverside stretch now Battersea Park. The windmill on the left becomes Joseph Freeman's



THE WHITE HOUSE, CHELSEA.

From a painting in the Tate Gallery by Thomas Girtin in 1800. View of Chelsea Reach with the White House on the Battersea shore. Other Battersea features: Joseph Freeman's Mill and the horizontal air mill. On the right: old Battersea Bridge and Chelsea Old Church.

By courtesy of the Trustees of the Tate Gallery

mill (2). The tall conical structure between the White House and this mill is the remarkable horizontal air mill (3) shown in the illustration above. The only difficulty is that, although almost all the well-known maps show the Red

(2) *Joseph Freeman's Mill.* There were a number of mills on the Battersea shore. Joseph Freeman's mill was situated about half way between Randall's Mill at Nine Elms and The White House. On the Crace map, it seems to stand on a square platform with an inlet on the east side. This corresponds with Girtin's picture in which there is a jetty facing the river, turning at a right angle to face east, shown in shadow. A distinctive feature of this jetty compared with illustrations of other mills is that the sides slope.

(3) *Horizontal Air Mill.* This was situated close to Battersea Church, in the grounds of Bolingbroke House. There are many stories about this mill. It is described as conical in shape, about 140 feet high. It had no sails but 96 shutters on each side, each 9 inches broad; these shutters opened and shut in the manner of a venetian blind. The sails of the mill were inside the core, the draught of wind to the sails being controlled by opening and closing the shutters. In Girtin's sketch, from which presumably the White House was drawn, the conical sides of this mill are more apparent than in the finished picture.

House, a notorious rollicking inn near the south end of where Chelsea Bridge has since been built, hitherto none of them include any indication of a building like the White House. In the course of research in the Battersea Public Library, however, the attention of your Chairman was called to a reproduction of a map of the Manor of Battersea, the original of which is in the British Museum (Crace Collection, Portfolio XVI, No. 71) *circa* 1710. It might well have been used as an estate map; although alterations had been made from time to time at later dates. On this map 220 yards west of the Red House, exactly in the correct position according to Girtin's picture, a cluster of buildings not shewn on later maps is marked *White House.*

This discovery establishes with some certainty that Girtin's *White House, Chelsea* of the Tate Gallery depicts not Chelsea Farm but *White House, Battersea;* that this feature was near the Red House; and that the picture was drawn from a point on the north shore of the Thames, somewhere near where the Church of All Saints, Pimlico, was afterwards built. It is easy enough to see why the picture was called *The White House;* but why the descriptive addition, *Chelsea*? On the assumption the view was drawn looking upstream, the White House is so obviously in Battersea. The pencil sketch for the water colour, illustrated as Plate XI in Martin Hardie's *A Sketch Book of Thomas Girtin* (The Walpole Society, 1938) was always known as *Battersea Reach.* This description was misleading, since every cartographer knows Battersea Bridge is the division between Battersea Reach (upstream) and Chelsea Reach (downstream). But is there not a likelihood of error in abbreviating a fuller description such as "The White House Battersea and Chelsea Reach"? Of three mezzotint engravings published separately in the eighteen twenties, one was called: *Battersea Reach,* and the other two: *Chelsea Reach looking towards Battersea.* The very widely circulated story of Turner, who told a dealer (who was admiring his pictures, but said he had something finer), that he did not know what that could be unless it were "Tom Girtin's *White*

House, Chelsea" must have perpetuated the error. The place name would have meant little to him or to the vast majority of those who heard the story and passed it on, compared with his feelings for Girtin's most famous work he thought he could not equal. We, too, must feel with Turner as the deep quiet of Girtin's scene makes itself felt, the landscape broad and uneventful, the time evening, the whole held together by a "trick" (though there is no self-conscious cleverness)—the device of the White House, gleaming white in spite of the setting sun behind it and its shimmering white reflection in the still waters of the Thames. Instead of this scene, which might have come to us in another medium from Wordsworth's *Excursion,* the "improvers" have given us the Chelsea Embankment with its traffic and noise and the Battersea fun-fair.

The Filching of the Lammas Lands

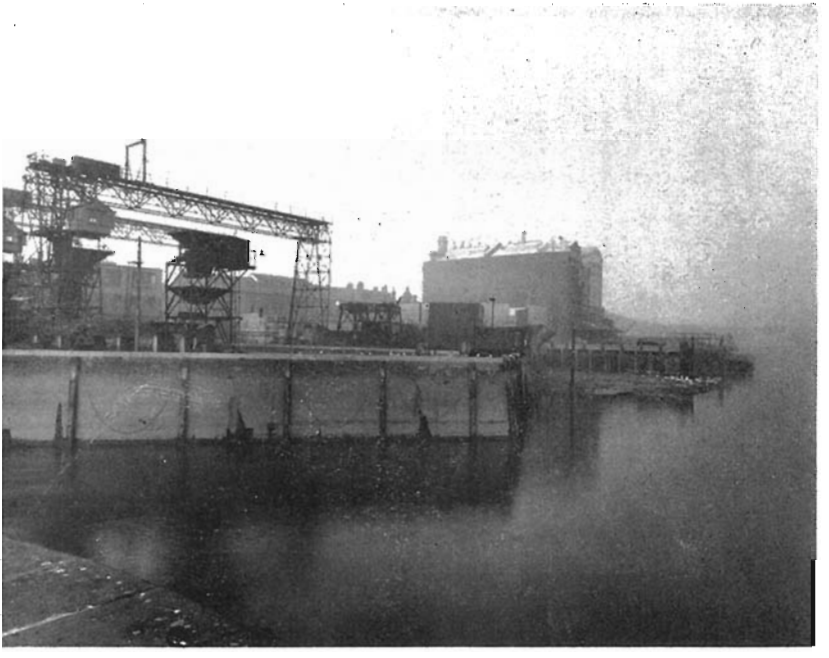
Until 1826 the Chelsea inhabitants, the grasiers, butchers and others, with their cattle, used formerly to assemble in the lane leading to the Lotts on the eve of Lammas, August 12, being the first of the month old style; and as the clock struck 12, they entered upon the meadow. They held this land for the six months, from August to February, Lord Cadogan then having the right to let it on lease for the half year until the following August. In 1826, the Directors of the Kensington Canal Company took unlawful possession of the Lammas Land, and in 1834 the Company went bankrupt. It is not clear how the lands were filched from the Chelsea inhabitants in the first place, but it seems that they abandoned their claims, rights and privileges and, apart from the spirited action recounted below, took no active proceedings for recovery. The West London Railway Company took over the Lammas Lands from the Kensington Canal Company and, in 1904, Lots Road Power Station was built to provide electric traction for the Underground Railway.

The following account of what took place then is taken from The Morning Herald of August 30, 1834:—

On Thursday evening, the inhabitants of the Parish of St. Luke's, Chelsea, proceeded in due form, headed by the Beadle, churchwardens, overseers and other officers of the Parish, to take possession of their ancient "Lammas Lands" called "The Lotts" situated in the western extremity of the Parish. About six o'clock the procession arrived, and they took possession of the ground in the following order:—first, the Beadle proceeded to the Gates, and, finding them locked and secured, was ordered to demand admission in the name of the Parish and inhabitants of St. Luke's, Chelsea; which not being able to obtain, he was commanded to knock the locks off, which he did, and the procession preceded by horses and other cattle (as is usual on these occasions) took possession, amidst the shouts and acclamations of the assembled multitude. It appears, by an accurate map in the possession of Mr. Faulkner, the historian of the Parish, that these lands have been in the uninterrupted possession of the Parish from time immemorial, until it was dispossessed of them by the Kensington Canal Company, in the year 1826, who have held them ever since, and shut out the inhabitants during the last few years from their common right to graze their cattle upon it, at a certain period of the year; and but for the spirited exertions of the present Parish Officers and the Parochial Committee, these rights would have been entirely lost, to the great detriment of the Parish.... On concluding their proceedings in the ground, the populace were regaled with beer and other refreshments; after which the gentlemen of the Parish retired to the Stadium under a salute of cannon fired from Baron de Berenger's fancy fortifications, and partook of refreshment and kept up the festivities till a late hour.

Black Point

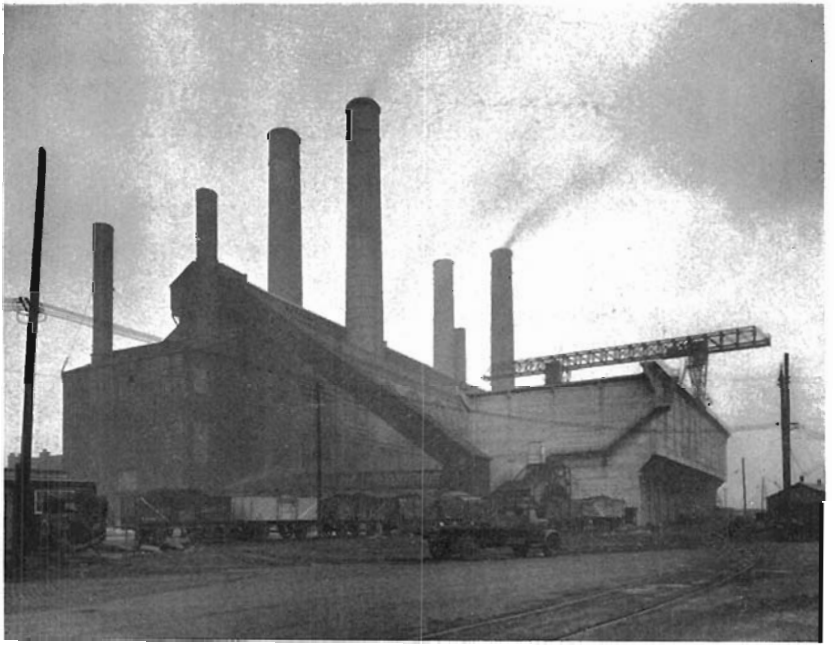
There is no such place on the map of Chelsea as Black Point; the term is descriptive of what civilisation and the authorities have done for the Lammas Lands, the riverside area in the extreme south-west corner of the Borough. Here is a description of the view from the river of this area in 1828 taken from Lyson's *Environs of London*: "Lord Cremorne's Park is seen on the right protruding considerably into the Thames with the mansion at the south end of the grounds: abundance of noble elms, ash and oak, enrich its area and impart classical effect to its scenery." Now it has become a centre for refuse disposal and Lots Road Power Station. There is an argument for saying that a Borough must deal with refuse disposal somewhere within its confines: there is no argument whatever for admitting other boroughs. Next to the Chelsea Borough Wharf there is the Kensington Wharf.



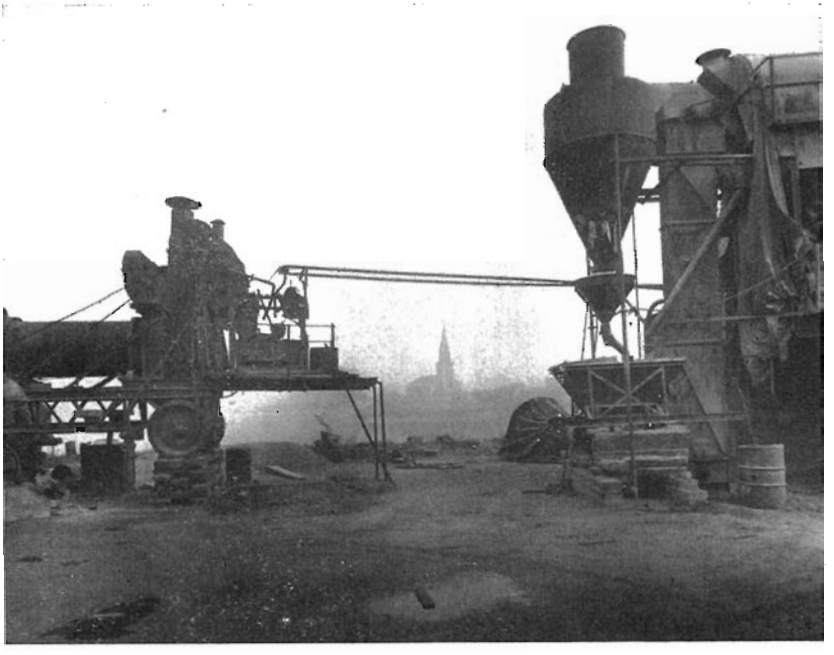
THE LAMMAS LANDS AND BLACK POINT, 1955.
West Chelsea riverside by Lots Road Power Station and the dust disposal centres of three metropolitan boroughs.

Both these wharves shoot dust and refuse into barges during which process much garbage and dust is scattered into the river and the atmosphere; and complaints have been received from the neighbourhood of litter, nauseating smells and blue-bottles. As was mentioned in the Annual Report 1954, the Society protested at a third Borough, namely Lambeth, being allowed to establish a refuse disposal centre in this area. It is separated only from the Chelsea and Kensington Centres by the clean and imposing building of Chelsea Food Products Ltd. Lots Road Power Station is responsible for burdening the atmosphere with a concentration of fumes and grit, more damaging than anything else to the health and enjoyment of

the neighbourhood and the cleanliness of homes. The Power Station is an old one providing power for the underground railways. It is hard to see why it is necessary to have this Power Station in the centre of London. Kensington and Chelsea dust and disposal centres are also entirely obsolete; and surely it is not beyond the wit of man to devise more up to date and less harmful methods of disposing of refuse. Lambeth have solved the problem to their own satisfaction and Chelsea detriment, by buying a wharf outside their area to which they send their dust carts through the busy streets of Westminster and Chelsea; the refuse is then loaded on to giant lorries which take the dust from Chelsea through the centre of London to a dump in Hertfordshire. This is Lambeth's contribution to the London traffic problem. It is



THE LAMMAS LANDS AND LOTS ROAD POWER STATION IN 1955.



NORTH BANK SCENERY IN 1955.
Machinery on the north bank with Battersea Church across the river in the distance.

also a contribution by a London Borough to the evils of old-fashioned refuse disposal which all condemn, and which have been the subject in the past of attack by the Ministry of Health Inspector of Public Cleansing in London (see *Report of the Departmental Committee of London Cleansing*, 1930. Cmd 3613). The Inspector's comment on disposal plants was that there were many of these "of various types but only a few are satisfactory. Many of them should be closed and it should be made impossible for others to be erected in congested areas." If it were not for the dust disposal and the power station establishments in this area, the former Lammas Lands could be wholly or at least in part restored to the

people of Chelsea as riverside open space and Lots Road, with obstructions to its river view thus removed, developed residentially.

ACTIVITIES.

The Society has been pleased to help people and organisations by advice on visits to Chelsea and by research on many points of interest.

Three special tours of Chelsea were arranged during the year for the Surbiton Arts Groups on September 17th; the Buckland (Surrey) and Burpham (Sussex) Womens Institutes on October 4th and November 28th respectively. Members of the Council of the Society and others acted as guides and gave short descriptive talks on the history of Chelsea.

In the spring of the year, Doctor Bernard Watney, a member of the Society, together with Doctor Geoffrey Blake, made some extremely important discoveries at Longton Hall, near Stoke-on-Trent. Excavations, which disclosed pieces of porcelain showing glaze and pattern, together with documents discovered elsewhere, identified the site of the Longton Hall Factory which existed from about 1751 to 1760, and of which, in spite of its large output of ware and figures little has so far been known save from contemporary advertisements.

The Society was represented by your Chairman at a joint conference organised by the Council for the Preservation of Rural England and the Central Council of Civic Societies on April 28th. The subject discussed was 'Trees'. The joint Hon. Secretary, (Miss Hilda Reid) represented the Society at another conference organised by the same Councils, on November 17th when the subject discussed was 'The Control of Outdoor Advertising'.

Mrs. Basil Marsden-Smedley was invited as a member of the Society to inaugurate a series of lectures at Park Walk Evening Institute on October 19th. She spoke on 'Chelsea, Place and People' and illustrated the lecture by slides kindly lent by Mr. George Buchanan and the Chelsea Public Library.

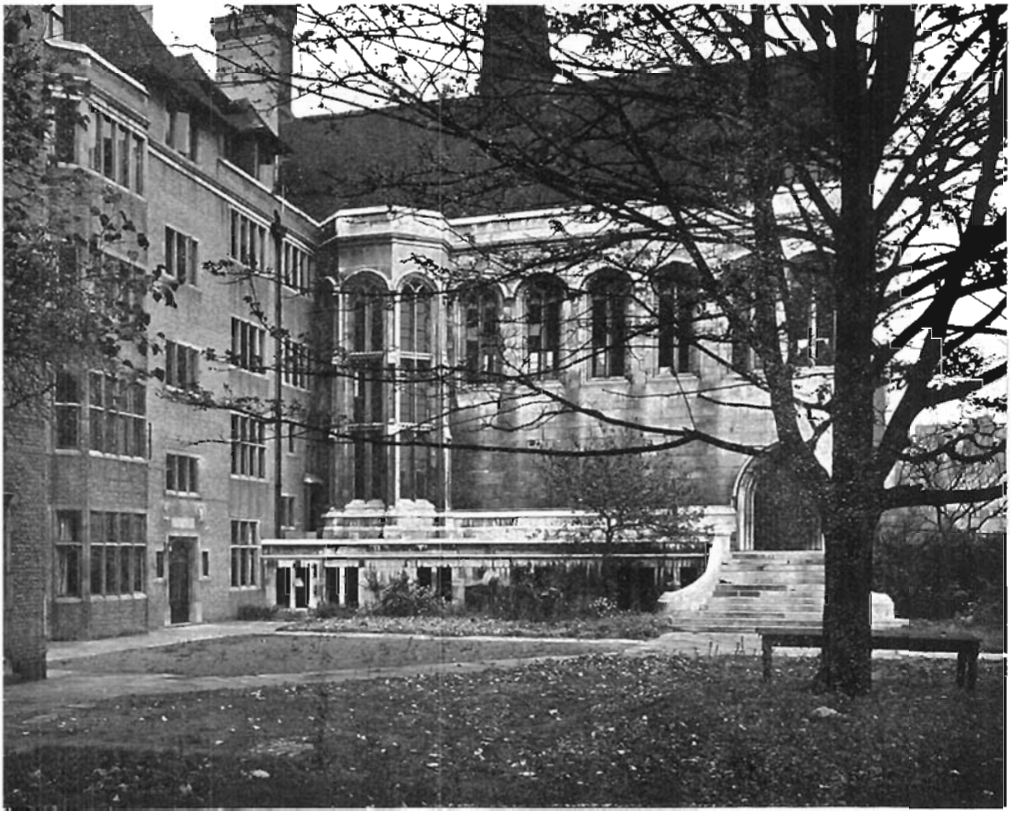
HONOURS

Lord de L'Isle and Dudley, V.C., has been created Viscount de L'Isle; and Mr. Harry Strauss who served for many years on the Council of the Society, has been created Lord Conesford. Sir Arthur Richmond, C.B.E., received a knighthood in the New Year Honours List of 1955.

It is of interest to note, (with reference to the mention in the Annual Report, 1954 on page 33 that Mr. Trenchard Cox, a member of the Society, had received the C.B.E., and was Director of the City of Birmingham Art Gallery), that he has now been appointed Director of the Victoria and Albert Museum, South Kensington.

OBITUARY

The Society will have heard with deep regret of the death of Miss Ethel Collum, M.B.E., to whom a tribute appears on page 79. Mr. A. Murray Leveson, Major Sydney Luck, Miss Anne Moffat and Mr. G. W. Osborn.



CROSBY HALL IN 1953.

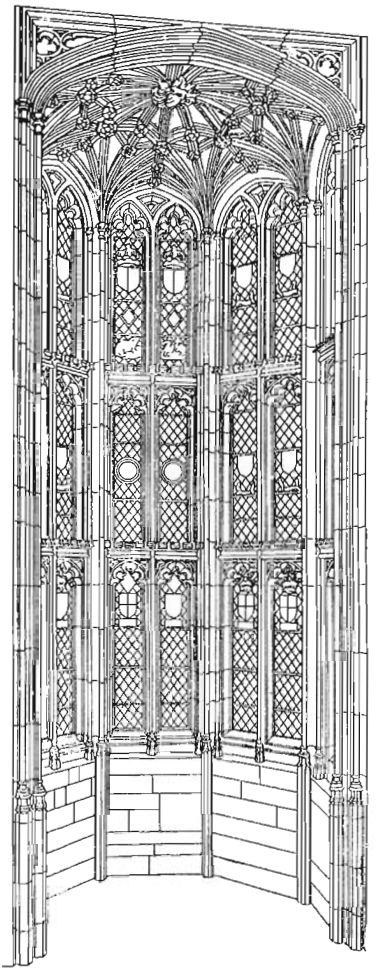
Crosby Hall

I FOREWORD

BY BASIL MARSDEN-SMEDLEY

I take as my text this passage from the writings of Henry James (1) "I have small warrant perhaps to say that atmospheres are communicable; but I can testify at least that they are breathable on the spot, to whatever effect of depression or of cheer. . . . . I need go no farther than the

(1) Henry James: *Refugees in Chelsea* (1916). Printed by St. John Hornby, second Chairman of the Chelsea Society, in Chelsea, at the Ashendene Press.



CROSBY HALL ORIEL WINDOW.

makeshift provisional gates of Crosby Hall, marvellous monument transplanted a few years since from the Bishopsgate quarter of the City to a part of the ancient suburban site of the garden of Sir Thomas More. . . . . Strange withal the whirligig of time; this great structure came down to the sound of lamentation, not to say of execration, and of the gnashing of teeth, and went up again before cold and disbelieving, quite despairing eyes; in spite of which history appears to have decided once more to cherish it and give it a new consecration. It is, in truth, still magnificent; it lives again for our gratitude in its noblest particulars." I do so, not only because Henry James had described an atmosphere all sensitive people feel as they push open "the makeshift provisional gates", cross the court and find themselves in the friendly shelter of a noble building; but because he has described a miracle.

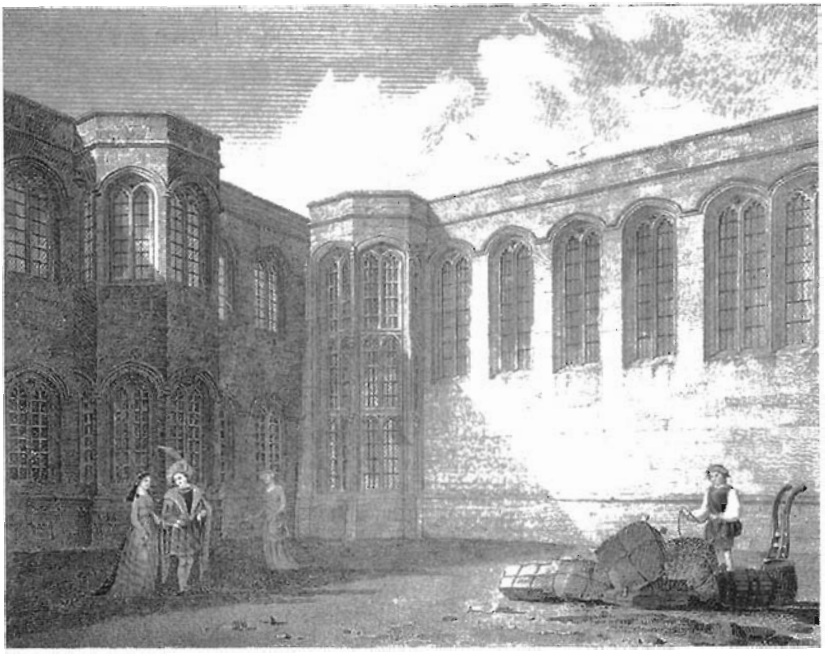
Miraculously, Crosby Hall is no empty pile of soulless masonry; no purposeless structure. It has taken root and worked its way into its new surroundings; into its new-found

community. The "marvellous monument transplanted" to Chelsea in 1910 has retained its "communicable atmosphere"; or has it not acquired in its new location and new use, a new phase in its continuous history? Certain it is that Crosby Hall, in nearly 50 years in Chelsea, has served as many useful purposes, and experienced as much historic incident, as to compare favourably with its 450 memorable years in the City of London.

Since 1927, Crosby Hall has been an International Hall of Residence for University Women graduates. It is dedicated to the encouragement of learning and promotion of friendship between the women of all nations. To this half-completed quadrangle come those who will be the outstanding figures of their own countries, including the United Kingdom, in the various fields of learning. They come mostly for purposes of the higher forms of research or to obtain doctorates or other post-graduate educational attainments. Here in Chelsea they find a collegiate home centred in a living community. Indeed the permission so often extended to local organisations and learned societies to use the Hall itself for meetings, lectures and concerts, means that they become very closely associated with the ordinary life of this country.

In two world wars the building has played a useful part and wears its battle scars with dignity. In the First World War, Henry James has immortalised its work and the welcome given to the Belgian refugees; and many a Wren posted in the second World War from one centre of discomfort to another has a kindly recollection of that same Crosby Hall welcome.

Gaps in history are apt to occur even in the most recent years and as Crosby Hall, meaning not only the Old Hall, but also the ancillary collegiate buildings in being, or to be built, is likely in the future to be one of the great buildings of Chelsea, it is desirable that there should be on record some particulars of why and how the Old Hall came to be in Chelsea and what its various occupants have done to it or propose to do to it in the future.



CROSBY PLACE:

1816 REPRESENTATION OF HOW IT MIGHT HAVE APPEARED IN THE 15TH CENTURY

Publicity for preservation: engraved by Wise from a drawing by Frederick Nash

Our thanks are due therefore to the four members of the Chelsea Society who have contributed the Crosby Hall articles which follow. Miss Hilda Reid, one of the Society's Honorary Secretaries, provides the one entitled: II *History;* Miss Muriel Bond, a foundation member of the Society, and past president of the British Federation of University Women is responsible for:—III *Need for Expansion;* Mr. J. M. Richards, a member of the Council of the Society, has written:—IV *Completing the Quadrangle: Architectural Considerations;* and Miss Sybil Campbell, a member of the

Society and former Chairman of the Crosby Hall Association, has contributed:—V *Proposed New Wing and Library.*

II—HISTORY

BY HILDA REID

Crosby Hall, once the banquetting hall of Crosby Place in Bishopsgate, has a long history in which various threads are interwoven: eating and drinking, of course; learning and education; the City of London; and because London has always been a great commercial centre, overseas trade and hospitality to foreigners. Women too—a number of women come into the story.

Most of that story is told in a monograph entitled *Crosby Place,* written by Philip Norman and W. D. Caröe, and published in 1908 by the Committee of the Survey of the Memorials of Greater London. Noble print and spacious margins make this a singularly beautiful volume, and it contains many fine plates, including various plans by a young architect, Mr. Walter H. Godfrey, now a member of the Council of the Chelsea Society, who also supplied notes for the text. Only five hundred copies were printed, but happily one of these may be consulted in the Chelsea Public Library.

Sir John Crosby

The story of Crosby Place goes back to the year 1466 when John Crosby obtained from Dame Alice Ashfelde, the Prioress of St. Helen's Convent in Bishopsgate, a 99 years lease of certain lands and tenements near the Convent at a yearly rent of £11 6s. 8d. He was already living in one of these tenements, a fine house, previously leased to Cataneo Pinelli, a Genoese merchant. Crosby pulled this house down and built himself another, "very large and beautiful and the highest at that time in London."

Crosby was an Alderman and a member of Parliament for London. He served as Sheriff and as an auditor for the City accounts. He also served as Warden to the Grocers' Company; for he was a member of that Company, though he dealt chiefly in wool. England was the Australia of the Fifteenth century, supplying raw material to the weavers of the continent, more especially of Flanders, which was then ruled by the Dukes of Burgundy. Wool was our great commodity; our Kings derived so large a part of their revenue from export duties levied upon it that the Lord Chancellor still sits on a wool sack. Large private fortunes were made in it too, as our numerous "wool churches" bear witness; but the trade had its sinister side; sheep-walks spelt enclosure, with the eviction of smallholders, and before Crosby's lease ran out, Thomas More was saying "sheep are eating men."

Crosby was active in the export trade. Knighted by Edward IV in 1471, after taking a prominent part in the defence of London against a Lancastrian attack, he was sent the next year to Flanders to negotiate a trade agreement with the Duke of Burgundy, and became Mayor of Calais, then England's great wool emporium. He died in 1475 leaving legacies to numerous servants and to many religious bodies, as also to the inmates of several prisons, with the injunction that they should pray for his soul and for those of his first wife and her children, whose sculptured monuments, with his own, were set up in St. Helen's Church. To his second wife he bequeathed jewels, plate, household goods and rich apparel, with £2,000 in money and the lease of Crosby Place, which was to be hers during her life time, or during the minority of her child by him, if she should prove to have one.

It is not very easy to picture Crosby Place as he left it. The Banquetting Hall stood in a court yard flanked at its North end by another stone building as high though not as long, with an oriel window, similar to that of the Hall, lighting two large rooms—the Solar, or parlour, with the Great Chamber above it. Opposite this was a third stone building,

possibly part of Pinelli's house converted into a private chapel. The fourth side of the court was bounded by a high stone wall with a gateway leading into Bishops-gate Street. These were state apartments; but, behind the chapel, there was also a large range of buildings, probably of timber or half timber construction, of which nothing survived by the end of the nineteenth century except an extensive range of vaults. There were gardens, too, stretching southwards to the parish boundary and eastwards nearly to St. Mary Axe, and there were nine houses older than the Hall, six of them fronting on Bishops-gate Street. All these formed part of what was described in a subsequent lease as "the great messuage called Crosby Place."

Richard III

From the first, Crosby Place was enormously admired; but perhaps it was something of a white elephant. Lady Crosby and her son do not appear to have lived in it long; for in 1483 it was occupied by Richard Duke of Gloucester, who held court there while his young nephew, Edward V, was lodged in the Tower, then still a palace as well as a prison. Gloucester's tenancy is commemorated by three references to Crosby Place in Shakespeare's *King Richard the Third* (2); and on account of a tradition (probably erroneous) that he was offered the crown there, the Solar and the Great Chamber came to be known as the Council Chamber and the Throne Room.

Civic Splendour

In 1496 Ambassadors from the Duke of Burgundy were lodged at Crosby Place, and five years later the lease was assigned to Sir Bartholomew Reed, goldsmith, who celebrated his mayoralty by giving a magnificent banquet to more than a hundred persons of great estate and subsequently lodged a

(2) Act I, Sc. 2: Act I, Sc. 3: Act III, Sc. 1.

"solempne Ambassade" from the Emperor, including "Lorde Cazimire Marquis of Brandenburgh his coysn," a Bishop, an Earl and a great number of gentlemen well apparelled. He also feasted here a young Spanish princess—Catherine of Aragon—when she came to England to marry Prince Arthur, the short-lived elder brother of Henry VIII. Such entertainments were costly. On Reed's death his widow persuaded the executors of Crosby's son to relieve her of the lease, and the tenancy passed to another Lord Mayor, Sir John Rest, grocer. Rest died in 1523, and on June 1st that year the remainder of the lease was bought from his executors for £150 by Sir Thomas More.

More and His Friends

Though More was not wholly unconnected with the wool trade (he received in 1526 a licence to export woollen cloth) he was by profession a lawyer, not a merchant. Still, he was a Londoner born and bred, he had served for eight years as Under Sheriff, he had twice been a Member of Parliament and twice he had been sent to Flanders to negotiate trade agreements. So far he conforms to the pattern of previous tenants of Crosby Place; but already by 1523 he had flown higher than the others, for he was a member of the King's Privy Council and he was Under Treasurer of the Exchequer. Moreover he had forged one link with the Place which sets him apart from the rest; he had written a *History of King Richard the Third* which, incorporated into the Chronicles of Hall and Holinshed, was to furnish Shakespeare with materials for his play.

Unluckily, although it is likely that More was often at Crosby Place, one cannot feel sure that he ever lived there; for though The Rev. Sir John O'Connell, in his *Saint Thomas More* (1935), insists that he did so and, moreover, that he had been a tenant of Rest's there "probably since 1516, certainly from 1519" (which, if one could accept the earlier date, would mean that *Utopia* was revised at Crosby Place), yet R. W. Chambers, in his *Thomas More* (1935), and E. E.

Reynolds, in his *Saint Thomas More* (1953) are agreed that More seems never to have occupied the house; and Chambers refers to a document quoted in Philip Norman's *Monograph* which suggests that the Mores were living in Bucklersbury as late as 1951. (3) What we do know is that, in January 1524, More sold his lease for £200 to Antonio Bonvisi and bought land in Chelsea.

This looks like a successful speculation; but it is possible that More may have been the first rescuer of Crosby Hall and Bonvisi may have deliberately decided to relieve him of the white elephant. For Bonvisi, who came of a great trading family from Lucca and was himself a princely merchant, dealing in wool and jewels and acting as banker to the King, was a friend to learned men and especially to More, who in one of his last letters, written in prison, describes himself as having been for nearly forty years "not a guest but a continual nursling of the house of Bonvisi." And Bonvisi sent him that silk camlet gown which he meant to wear for his execution, till persuaded by the Lieutenant of the Tower that a gown of frieze would be more suitable.

Whatever Bonvisi's motives may have been in taking up the lease, he liked Crosby Place so well that in 1538 he obtained from the nuns a new lease of 99 years, including the 28 years of the old one still to run. In November of that year St. Helen's Convent was dissolved and the nuns, now homeless, were obliged to surrender their lands to the King, who thus became ground landlord of Crosby Place. Four years later Bonvisi bought the fee simple; but he was a Catholic and his position was becoming difficult, and in 1547, the year that Edward VI came to the Throne, he leased the Place to More's son-in-law and his nephew, William Roper and William Rastell, who soon sub-let it to other friends of Bonvisi's. They were all of them Catholics, and before Edward had reigned for three

(3) In the marriage licence of Margaret More with William Roper, dated July 2nd, 1521, she is described as of the Parish of St. Stephen, Walbrook--the parish church of their former house in Bucklersbury.

years, they had all fled to the continent, mainly to Flanders. In September, 1553, Crosby Place was seized by the Sheriffs as forfeit to the King, who eventually made it over to Lord Darcy.

Bonvisi seems never to have come back to England; but when Edward was succeeded on the Throne by his Catholic sister Mary, Darcy was obliged to surrender the estate and the lessees returned there. It was during Mary's reign that William Rastell produced, probably at Crosby Place, his great edition of More's *Works*. Bonvisi's heirs held Crosby Place till 1566 when, on account of business losses, they had to sell it to Alderman Bond.

Merchant Adventurers

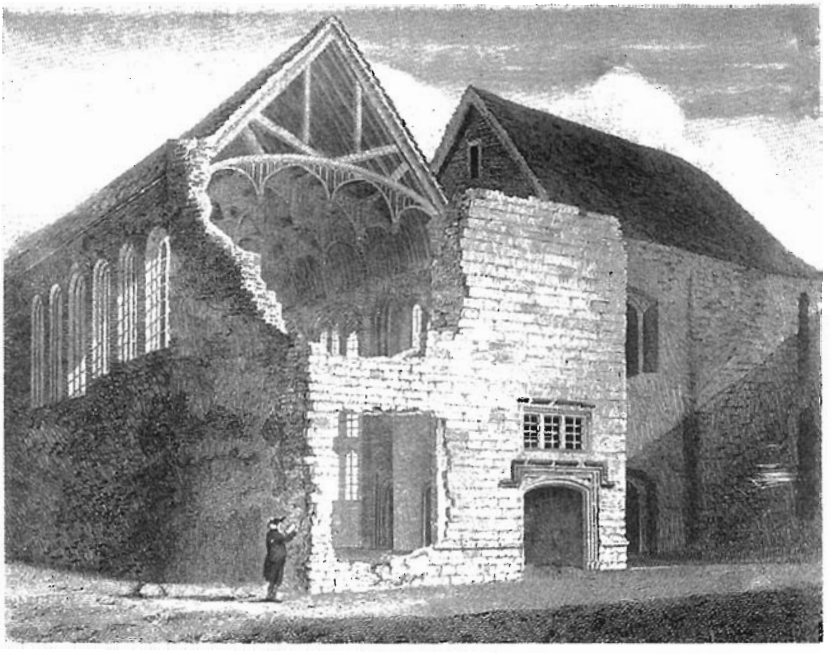
Bond, who is described on his tombstone at St. Helen's as "a merchant adventurer, and most famous in his age for his great adventure both by sea and land", got himself into trouble through defying a departmental regulation by "trap-hicking to Narva" and was imprisoned for one week in the Fleet. However, he seems to have died a rich man. His youngest son, Martin, was a captain of train bands, present at Tilbury when Queen Elizabeth held her great review there at the time of the Spanish Armada. He was twice returned to Parliament and is remembered as a benefactor to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, where his portrait is preserved. He deserves also to be remembered as an early archæologist. He rebuilt Aldgate and, finding some Roman coins on the site, had two of them copied in stone as medalions to adorn the gateway. While the Bonds held Crosby Place, Ambassadors from Denmark and from France were lodged there, besides an agent of the Duke of Alva, whose master at that time was trying to stamp out the rebellion of the Protestant Netherlands. The rebels, led by the Prince of Orange, were our allies; so Alva's agent and his train were kept at Crosby Hall more or less in custody.

The Heiress

In 1594 the Bonds sold Crosby Hall to Sir John Spenser, known as "Rich Spenser", who kept his Mayoralty there, "made great reparations" and entertained a son of the Prince of Orange, a Russian Ambassador and a most important French Ambassador- Henri IV's great minister who was later Duc de Sully. Spenser had an only child, Elizabeth, who eloped with William, Lord Compton, afterwards Earl of Northampton. It is said that he went to her parents' country house at Canonbury disguised as a baker, and smuggled her out of it in a bread basket. She inherited her father's vast fortune (estimated at from five to eight hundred thousand pounds) and appears to have spent it freely.

Cavaliers and Roundheads

Elizabeth, Countess of Northampton seems never to have lived at Crosby Place, though her grandson, a Royalist, killed at Edgehill in 1642, resided there for a short period. Meanwhile the house had, among other tenants, the East India Company and (according to tradition) the Dowager Countess of Pembroke, Sir Philip Sidney's sister for whom he wrote his *Arcadia*. Two years before the battle of Edgehill, Crosby Place was let on a 99 years lease to Sir John Langham, a Turkey Merchant, who served as Sheriff and was twice returned to Parliament. He too was a Royalist and, under the Commonwealth, was twice imprisoned in the Tower of London for disaffection. In 1642 Crosby Hall itself was used as a temporary prison for "malignants". It is said (apparently on very little evidence) that Sir Kenhelm Digby was confined there. Langham was a member of the deputation sent to Holland in 1660 to invite Charles II to return to England. He was knighted at the Hague and was later made a Baronet. He died at Crosby Place in 1671.



CROSBY PLACE FROM ST. HELEN'S CHURCHYARD IN 1816.
Publicity for preservation: engraved by Wise from a drawing by Frederick Nash

Dilapidation and Decay

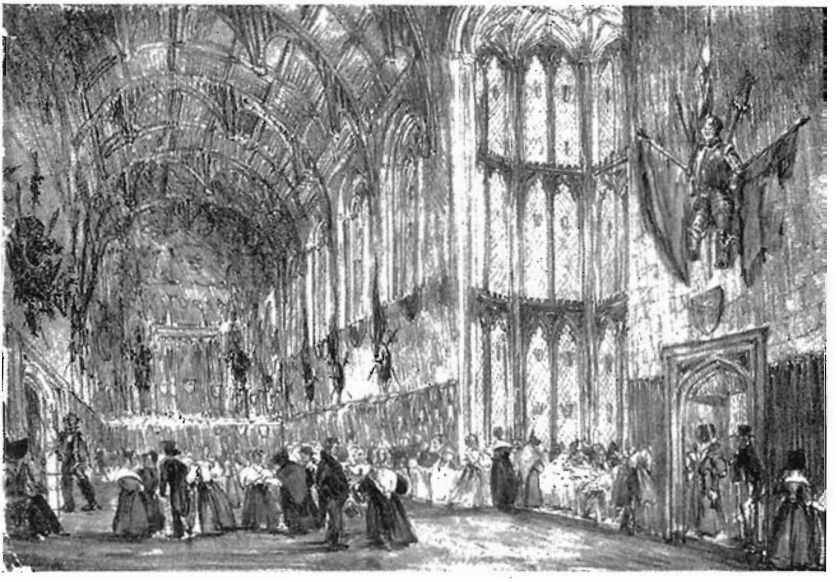
Crosby Place had escaped damage in the Great Fire of 1666; but a few years after Sir John Langham's death it had a disastrous fire of its own. The Hall, with the other state apartments was spared, but never again, in Bishopsgate, did it form part of a residential mansion. The Comptons sold the freehold and the Langhams the lease; in 1962, both were acquired by a family called Freeman. Already part of Crosby Place had served as a General Post Office; and the East India Company were back again, occupying the Council Chamber and the Throne Room. As for the Hall, it had a floor inserted in it at the level of the Minstrels' gallery. The

ground floor was used as a grocer's warehouse, the upper one as a Meeting House by a Presbyterian Congregation who had some notable ministers, beginning with Thomas Watson, the ejected minister of St. Stephen's Walbrook. The Presbyterians met there till 1769 when they migrated to Maze Pond, Southwark, and were succeeded at Crosby Hall by Relly the Universalist, who preached there till he died in 1778, converting James Murray, founder of the Universalist Churches in America. By 1790 the Hall was leased to Messrs. Holmes and Hall, packers.

Meanwhile, soon after 1780, the oriel window of the Council Chamber and the Throne Room was sold to make a staircase, and the gilded oak and stucco of the ceilings of those rooms, with their beautiful pendants and cuspings, went to a private museum. In 1816 Mr. Strickland Freeman removed a fine stone doorway to adorn a dairy he was building at Henley-on-Thames. By this time every fragment of stained glass had disappeared from the windows, given away by the generous packers (when accidentally broken) to antiquarian visitors; and the medieval encaustic tiles had vanished from the floors.

Rescue and Relapse

In 1831, when the packers' lease ran out, the site was advertised to be let for building. This looked like the end of everything; but public feeling was roused by the news, and the next year a public meeting was held at the City of London Tavern in Bishopsgate Street, under the chairmanship of Alderman Copeland, M.P., to consider the best means to be adopted for preserving and restoring Crosby Hall. A large committee was formed for this purpose, including the Marquess of Northampton, Chantry the sculptor, Etty the painter, W. Tite (who gave his name to Tite Street) and E. J. Carlos, who published a short historical notice of the Hall which excited public opinion still further. Subscriptions came in (including £100 from the Grocers' Company), a new lease of 99 years was acquired, and the work of repair began



CROSBY PLACE

Possibly Elizabeth Fry's Bazaar of Works and Books sold for the benefit of female prisoners and convicts in March 1839.

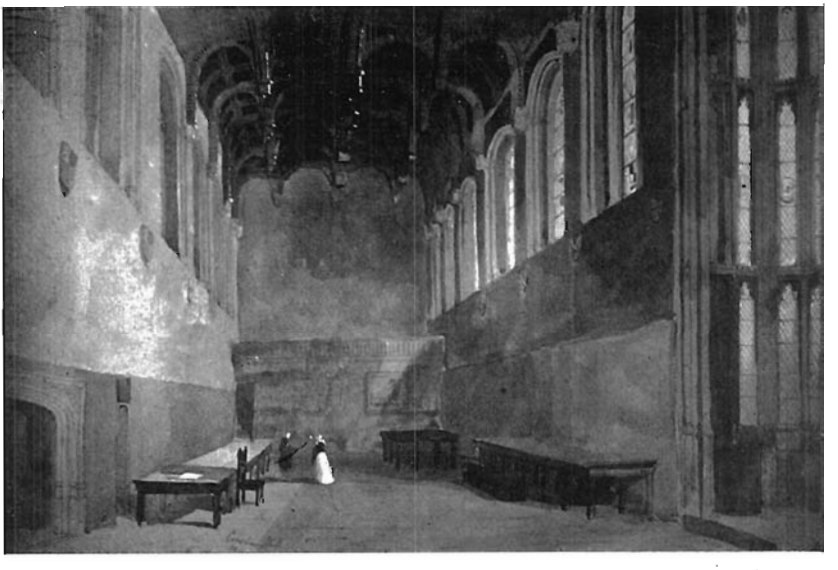
under the direction of Blore, who was also a member of the Committee and gave his services gratuitously.

By the time the Banquetting Hall was repaired, the subscriptions were exhausted; but now a generous lady, Miss Hackett, came to the rescue, undertaking to assume the lease, to discharge all outstanding liabilities and to offer the Hall at a moderate rent to the Greshman Committee for the use of their lectures, or to appropriate it to some other object connected with science, literature or the arts.

A new architect, S. L. Blackburn was appointed, and in 1836 work was begun on the Council Chamber and the Throne Room. The first stone was laid by Alderman Copeland, now Lord Mayor, who afterwards led the way to the Hall where a

banquet had been prepared in "the Old English style", the floor being strewn with rushes. Three years later Elizabeth Fry held a Sale of Work and Books there "for the benefit of female prisoners and convicts"—adding another illustrious name to those connected with the place.

Meanwhile Blackburn had been restoring the Throne Room and the Council Chamber, dealing ruthlessly with what was left of the original stone work and replacing the gilded oak and stucco of the ceilings with fir and papier mache; and in spite of all this the Gresham Committee could not be persuaded to adopt Crosby Hall as their College. Miss Hackett surrendered her interest to a company of proprietors who appointed yet another architect—John Davies—and completed the work of repair and restoration, adapting the building to the requirements of the Crosby Hall Literary and Scientific



CROSBY PLACE: INTERIOR IN 1842.

By courtesy of the National Buildings Record

Institution—an unsuccessful venture which was presently succeeded by the City of London Evening Classes, which proved equally unsuccessful.

After that the Hall was used by a wine merchant till, in 1868, it became a Restaurant. In 1871 the whole property was put up to auction by the Freeman family, who bought in the Hall, but only to sell it to Messrs. Gordon and Company. It was a restaurant till the spring of 1908, when the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China bought the site in order to build themselves new offices.

A new threat and a second rescue

Once again it looked as though everything was over; but again public opinion was roused, no doubt partly through the publication of Philip Norman's monograph. Even the Bank was affected; they would not surrender their new site; but at great expense they had the stones and timber of the old Hall taken down and numbered (under the watchful eye of Mr. Walter Godfrey) and presented them to the London County Council, who accepted the gift on condition that a site and funds for their re-erection was provided from external sources.

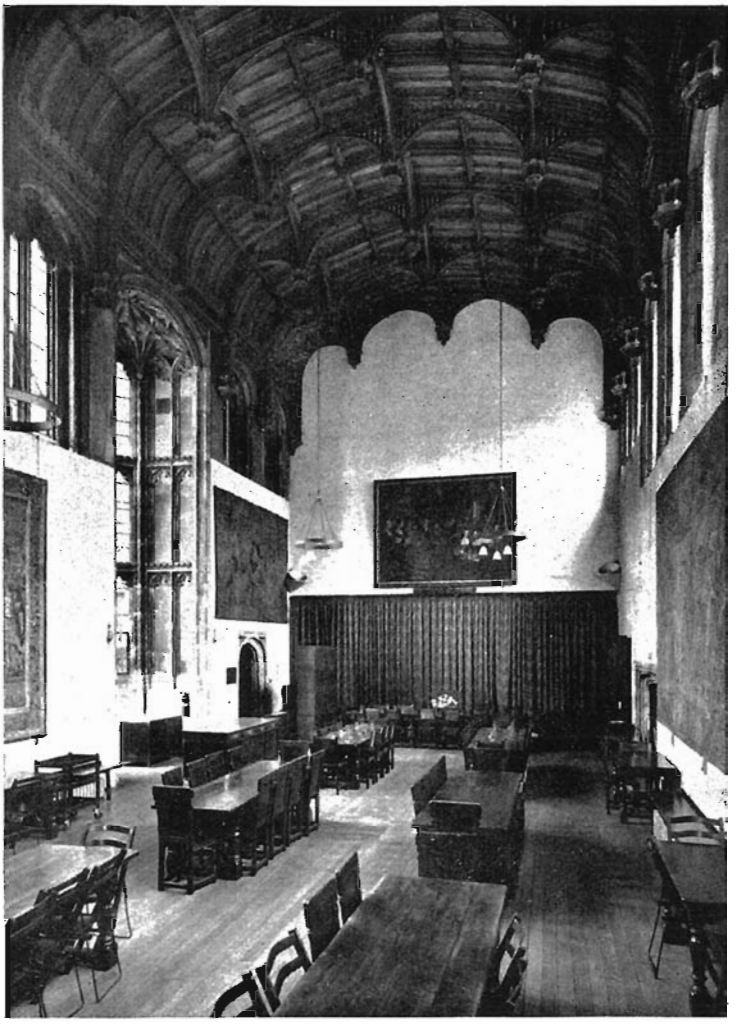
At this time it was supposed that London University would make its home in South Kensington, and the Town and Gown Association of Edinburgh had already acquired a site on Chelsea Embankment between Beaufort Street and Danvers Street (formerly part of Sir Thomas More's garden) and had erected as a hostel the block of flats called More's Garden. This block was designed by Messrs. Dunn and Watson whose plans provided for an ultimate extension over the whole site. Now, in order to enable the London County Council to accept Crosby Hall, Professor Patrick Geddes promoted the University and City Association which acquired the vacant part of the site, with an additional site on Danvers Street, and made over the whole to the London County Council, who granted them a lease for five hundred years on condition that

Crosby Hall was erected thereon. A shed was built on the site and the materials of the Hall were stored there till, stone by stone and beam by beam, they were re-erected under the direction of Mr. Walter Godfrey.

His initial scheme, approved by the London County Council, comprised a North block and a South block, joined to the North and South ends of the old Hall, which was oriented as it had been in Bishopsgate with its oriel looking on the proposed new quadrangle. But the erection of these blocks was delayed by the first world war, during which Crosby Hall resumed its connection with Flanders; for (as a commemorative plaque near the oriel window, inscribed with a poem by Emil Cammaerts, bears witness) it became a centre for Belgian refugees. A monograph by Henry James, printed at the Ashendene Press by St. John Hornby, the second Chairman of the Chelsea Society, describes the plight of these unfortunate exiles and the efforts of the good people of Chelsea to make them welcome.

By the end of the war it was decided that London University should be sited in Bloomsbury; so the purpose of the building had to be reconsidered. Another lady now stepped forward, Professor Caroline Spurgeon, President of the British Federation of University Women; and in 1922 it was agreed that the interests of the University and City Association should be transferred to this Federation, who formed a private Company, known as the Crosby Hall Association Ltd., by means of which they acquired a lease from the London County Council and founded an International Club House and Hall of Residence for University Women, where women graduates from this and other countries could reside for study and research.

The instigator of all this was Mr. Walter Godfrey, who first interested Professor Caroline Spurgeon in the Crosby Hall site. His North block of five storeys in brick and stone, built to house some fifty graduates, deliberately emphasises the antiquity of the Hall (now known as the

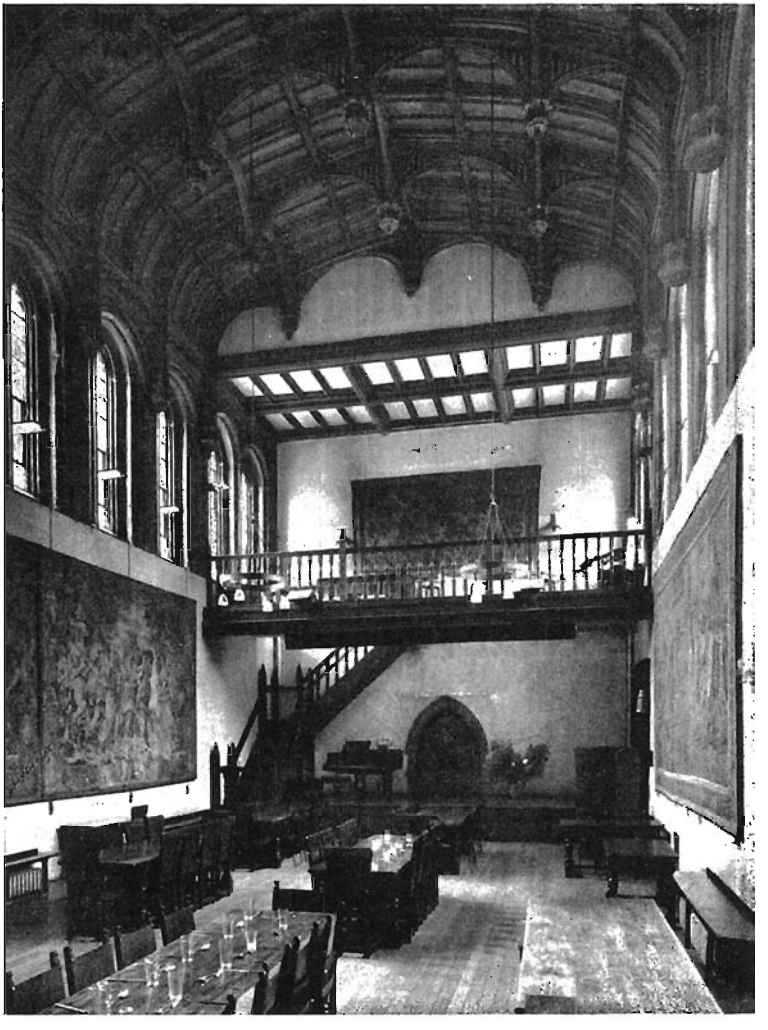


CROSBY HALL: INTERIOR OF THE GREAT HALL LOOKING NORTH.

Great Hall), being designed in a somewhat later style It was opened by Queen Mary in 1927 and is dedicated to the encouragement of learning and the promotion of friendship between women of all nations. Over the entrance is a tablet recording this, with portraits in relief of Sir John Crosby and Sir Thomas More by Mary Gillick, who is a member of the Society. This tablet was unveiled by Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, then Duchess of York.

The building of the South block was delayed by the second world war, during which Crosby Hall suffered many vicissitudes. In September 1939, the River Emergency Service was billetted here for a short time, and at the end of the month the Hall was closed. The garden hut became an Air Raid Wardens' Post and the garden was made into allotments. The parachute mine which destroyed the Old Church did not entirely spare the Great Hall; the windows with their leaded panes were broken, (and replaced with plate glass), the louvre was damaged and the South door was blown out. This happened early in 1941. A year later the ground floor of the hostel was leased as offices to the International Federation of University Women and a club room was opened. Then the British Federation of University Women moved their office back again, but not for long. In December 1942 the whole place was requisitioned by the Admiralty, who turned it into a transit camp for the W.R.N.S. The W.R.N.S. used the Great Hall for meals and entertainments, erecting a stage with curtains and stage lighting; and one feels that this might have pleased Sir Thomas More, who distinguished himself as a child in Cardinal Morton's household by "stepping among the players" at Christmas entertainments and making up a part of his own.

The Hall was not released till April 1946, when the British Federation of University Women moved in again, reopening it to residents in the following June. So the noble building which at the expiration of that first 99 years lease should have reverted to the nuns of St. Helen's, has come once more into the hands of an association of women. Where scholars were



CROSBY HALL: INTERIOR OF THE GREAT HALL LOOKING SOUTH.

welcomed by More's friend Bonvisi, scholars are welcomed to-day; and in that banqueting hall where Ambassadors from many parts of Europe were so sumptuously feasted, unofficial Ambassadors from every part of the world are entertained now with less pomp but no less hospitality.

III—NEED FOR EXPANSION

BY MURIEL BOND

During the three decades that have elapsed since the residential wing was completed, the new International Hall of Residence for Women Graduates of all nationalities has fully justified the faith of its founders and the generous support of those who responded to the first building fund appeal. The delightful Tudor period residence with its single bedrooms, its two Club rooms and the Great Hall in which meals are served have attracted many women of academic importance. The collegiate life enjoyed by the residents has been enhanced by the international atmosphere and the diversity of research the scholars are undertaking.

Post graduate workers have come from all corners of the world and looking through the records of interesting women who have resided at the Hall while working in the Museums, Libraries, Hospitals and Colleges of the University of London one finds a long list of varied professions. Not only have University professors and lecturers and school teachers come to Crosby Hall each to undertake an investigation in her own specialist subject but there is note of engineers, lawyers, art historians and social workers. Other scholars include a hydro-geologist, an anthropologist, an architect, an archivist and a Government official, and the stimulating effect one upon other of these varied interests with such diverse national backgrounds make the life at Crosby Hall quite unique. Probably no other group of women have the privilege of dining daily in a beautiful 15th Century Banqueting Hall and this fact is justly prized and appreciated, particularly by those from the Commonwealth and the United States of America.

Since the opening of the Hall the Directors have always had in mind the need, at some future date, for extension to make the Hall a complete and fully equipped collegiate building. Not only is it essential that there should no longer be exposed to view the unsightly outside South end of the Great Hall, but it is important that the Dining Hall should be used daily to its full capacity for residents and their friends, that the Warden should have suitable accommodation and that there be adequate reception and conference rooms and a library worthy of a building whose residents are all of graduate status.

The demand for accommodation has steadily increased so that in recent years some of the larger single rooms have been turned into double rooms, offices have been converted into bedrooms and staff have been out-housed As a temporary measure the Directors have had to acquire and furnish three ground floor flats in the adjacent block of More's Gardens to serve as an annex to the main hostel.

The Directors plan for an increase in the accommodation which will bring the total number of residents to rather under 140 and to erect a building which will make of Crosby Hall something that is a fine public building having the character of a College. The whole building must be one which will find favour and distinction in the eyes of the many Londoners who daily cross Battersea Bridge. It must be worthy of the historic "village" of Chelsea and of the fine tradition associated with education in London. The addition must blend with the existing hostel and the Great Hall, emphasising the architectural beauty of the latter, and yet be of such a character that it will harmonise with the modern development of Chelsea Embankment.

The Directors realise that the beauty of the Hall as seen from the present garden is something that is a precious possession to be shared with all Londoners and though the new wing must of necessity enclose the garden on the East and South and provide a new frontage on the Embankment,

the Directors plan to make it possible for a view of the quadrangle and of the West aspect of the Hall still to be seen through an opening leading from the road.

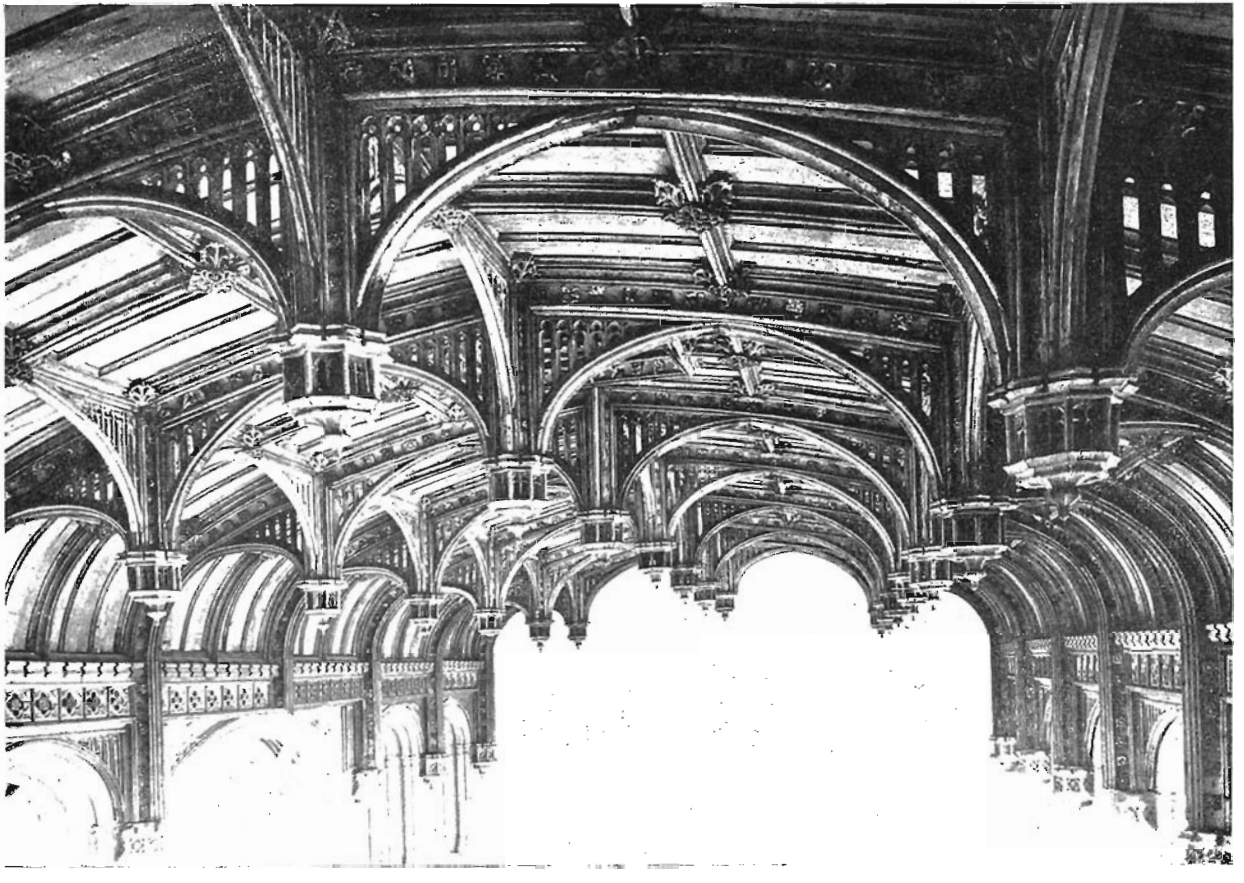
In taking all aspects of the problem into consideration, the Directors agreed that to make of the new wing an extension that will serve its purpose and yet be a gracious supplement to the existing wing and Great Hall, the architect must be asked to plan a building faced with stone and characteristic of the era in which it is built. Such a building would, they believe, be a credit both to the importance of the site and to the great purpose intended by its founders for the International Hall of Residence.

IV—COMPLETING THE QUADRANGLE: ARCHITECTURAL CONSIDERATIONS

BY J. M. RICHARDS

The new building at Crosby Hall will be part of the street architecture of Cheyne Walk, and no proper opinion about its external appearance can be formed without first looking at the buildings that stand nearby.

To begin at the corner of Beaufort Street, there is first of all More's Garden, in dark red brick designed in a fairly restrained version of the early renaissance style fashionable fifty years ago. It rises straight from the pavement to a considerable height. Next is the northern block of Crosby Hall, finished in 1925, set some way back (and eventually, of course, to be hidden by the new building) in Mr. Walter Godfrey's domestic Tudor style, reminiscent of several charming buildings in the older universities. Next is the Hall itself—fifteenth-century gothic at its finest, but marred at present by its blank gable-end which was never meant to show. The new building scheme will be doing a service to Chelsea by covering this up. When it is finished the old Hall will not be visible from outside except for its high roof and its eastern flank along Danvers Street and a glimpse across the quadrangle through



CROSBY HALL: ROOF OF THE GREAT HALL.

a passageway beneath the new south front. Its role will be to form one side of the new enclosed quadrangle, in traditional collegiate fashion.

Next comes Danvers Street, up which can be seen, besides the grey stone flank of the old Hall, glimpses of small commonplace but dignified mid-Victorian terrace houses, exemplifying the good stock-brick domestic architecture of which London, until recently, basically consisted. Next come the bomb-site gardens and, behind them, a row of 1930 houses in a debased suburban builder's Queen Anne style, together with one which was rebuilt since the war in imitation Georgian. Beyond is the industrial end of Old Church Street, on the other side of which is the red-brick Old Church, late seventeenth-century in the main (what survives of it), at present a patchwork of partial rebuilding yet preserving, in spite of its temporary asbestos roofing and heavy wooden window-tracery, a surprising amount of its old charm.

Beyond the old church is the Cheyne Hospital for Children, consisting of a particularly charming white stucco Regency front on a much older house (whose bomb-devastated twin is happily soon to be rebuilt) and a rather elaborate example of the rubbed brick neo-Jacobean architecture that transformed many parts of London towards the end of the last century. Finally, across Lawrence Street, partly masked by the trees in the gardens, is the tall beefy-red mass of Carlyle Mansions, in a somewhat angular utilitarian style of the eighteen-eighties, but adorned with interesting Walter Crane-ish bas-relief panels. Beyond can just be glimpsed, through the trees, the little white stucco houses (including the King's Head and Eight Bells) of an earlier Cheyne Walk.

A veritable fashion-parade, summing up much that has happened in English domestic architecture during a century and a half; but not suggesting that there exists any consistent style or character to which a new building ought to conform. Only in very rare instances, in any case, is it justifiable in my view to revert to the style of an earlier period instead of

building in the way that comes natural to us now. In the middle of a crescent in Bath or a terrace on Brighton front, or somewhere else where the important thing was to preserve the unity of some existing architectural composition, such a procedure might be the right one; but certainly not among the variegated architectural styles of Cheyne Walk, Chelsea.

The new building for Crosby Hall should clearly, therefore, belong to its own time, and should try to show that the twentieth century can rival the standard of beauty achieved in previous centuries without recourse to imitation. How successfully the present design—which is in any case still at an early stage—is likely to do this it is not my purpose here to try to estimate. But I have no hesitation in saying that the building committee of Crosby Hall is right in giving their architects the opportunity.

What makes good and appropriate architecture is not the superficialities of style but such things as proportion and massing; the treatment of the skyline (I personally think the Royal Fine Art Commission was right in asking for the height to be kept down as far as possible); the choice of materials and the way they are used, and refinement in the details. When proper attention is paid to all these it is surprising how comfortably modern buildings will fit in with old ones; witness the short terrace of flats recently built at the corner of Milman's Street and Cheyne Walk, harmoniously in scale with the nearby Georgian houses, of which it may be termed a modern equivalent.

A sympathetic use of materials is all-important. At Crosby Hall the walls are to be of Clipsham stone, which should accord well with the old Hall and, being light in tone, will not have so heavy an effect along the Cheyne Walk frontage as would be produced if the dark red brick of the façade of More's Garden were to be prolonged as far as Danvers Street. Only one more important point needs mentioning; the decision to retain the courtyard plan. Passers-by in Cheyne Walk will no doubt miss the view across the forecourt of Crosby Hall and of the terraced western side of the old Hall; but against

this loss can be set the knowledge that Crosby Hall is at last achieving the architectural form—an enclosed quadrangle—proper to its collegiate functions and associations, that its occupants will be able to enjoy greater seclusion from the noisy traffic route that Cheyne Walk has lately become, and that it will present to the world a frontage which will enable it confidently to proclaim the part Crosby Hall plays in contemporary culture as well as the allegiance it owes to the past.

V—PROPOSED NEW WING AND LIBRARY

BY SYBIL CAMPBELL

To Crosby Hall, in the years which followed its opening in 1926, with a break during the last great war, there came women graduates from all quarters of the world without distinction of race, religion or political faith. They had in common only the background of a University education and membership of a National Association of University Women Here foreign graduates meet British members from this country and every part of the Commonwealth. They learn to understand each other's difficulties and beliefs while they enjoy the beauty of Chelsea. Thus in a quiet way much is done to improve good feeling and understanding between the nations. Those who make use of the unrivalled sources for research that London has to offer or attend post-graduate courses at the University have the first claim to the rooms; other members may stay at the Hall for short visits.

The need for the new building is urgent and the Directors of Crosby Hall had, as a first step, to make their selection of an architect. Mr. Walter Godfrey had virtually retired and the Directors inspected the work of his son, Mr. Emil Godfrey, and decided to instruct his firm, Messrs. Carden and Godfrey, to prepare plans in the best contemporary style for the new wing. The new building will include a main entrance in Danvers Street with appropriate dressing rooms, common rooms, offices for the administrative staff of Crosby Hall and for the British Federation of University Women, its parent

CROSBY HALL: DESIGN FOR NEW WING AND LIBRARY 1955.

The new building has been designed in Clipsham Stone to emphasise its collegiate character; the join with the old hall has been ingeniously effected by a broad strip of plain stone. The existing unsightly gable end has been satisfactorily masked. (See page 75).

body, a fine library and a number of study bedrooms These last, with office rents, will provide the income to meet running costs, loan interest and payments to a Sinking Fund

The Directors realised to the full their responsibility in building on such a site on Chelsea Embankment and decided to consult the Royal Fine Art Commission at an early stage. The first plan consisted of a block taller by one storey than that now proposed on the Embankment front, and a much lower building joining this block to the old Hall. The upper part of the existing blank wall including the gable end of the old Hall was thus left exposed to view. The Royal Fine Art Commission suggested that the main block would be greatly improved if it were reduced in height by one storey.

Two more sets of plans were prepared and submitted in turn to the Commission and eventually the Directors were glad to hear that "The changes you have made have produced an acceptable design although it has been suggested that it might be further improved if the tower could be reduced by one storey". This it is difficult to do as it involves the loss of study bedrooms. Whether this tower is of necessity a storey too high or not is a small matter; there is no doubt that the tower with its wide vertical expanse of plain stone is of value in lending dignity and character to the whole building and forms an appropriate link between the new building and the Old Hall. To those who fear that its height may deprive the existing north wing of sun and light, it should be pointed out that the whole of the afternoon sunshine, which bathes the terrace of the Hall in light, reaches the courtyard at the present moment over the top of the block of flats known as More's Garden. The new building, faced as it will be with Clipsham stone, which is being used so successfully in the repair of the Houses of Parliament, will be not only suitable for this purpose, but will perpetuate the scholastic appearance of its surroundings.

In the new wing the Directors propose to include a long and spacious library with windows looking on to the river where there is no finer view of Chelsea Reach. As the library

will extend for the whole width of the proposed wing. air can be obtained from the quadrangle through windows which will have a view of the Hall and terrace; the windows on the riverside can be kept closed to keep out the noise of Chelsea Embankment traffic.

It is proposed to open the library without charge to all students of both sexes and of any age who can show that they are engaged on a course of serious study or research. If sufficient funds are available, the library will be open in the evenings and on Sundays. The Directors find that there is a very general desire and a real need for a select reference library, specialising in certain aspects of English civilisation. Such a library, unique of its kind, associated with a Hall of the historic interest and beauty of Crosby Hall, and standing on ground which was once the garden of Sir Thomas More, would be particularly suitable. They have in mind a library in which serious students might well begin their advanced study of English history, language and literature, art, architecture, furniture, china, etc., and to which students of other subjects might well turn to improve their cultural background. Such a library should prove of great value to all students in London. It will, of course, be constantly used by the residents of Crosby Hall and, it is hoped, by many residents in Chelsea.

With prices changing rapidly, as they are at present, it is difficult to form a close estimate of the cost of the new building, including the library, except to say that it is likely to be large, perhaps between £250,000 and £300,000. In the view of the Directors, it would be possible to begin to build as soon as £100,000 has been collected in addition to the amount already raised. Is it too much to hope that in this twentieth century, there may yet be found a merchant prince, perhaps a grocer or another wool merchant, perhaps a great scientific inventor, inspired by "the encouragement of learning and the promotion of friendship between the women of all nations" who will make it possible to build this wing in the near future and, in doing so, give his name to a fine building on this splendid site on Chelsea Embankment?

Miss Ethel Collum, M.B.E.

The death on September 1st, 1955 of Miss Ethel Collum has left a gap in the Chelsea Society that will not be filled. She first came to Chelsea in 1906, so that her life here covered almost half a century. She became a member of the Chelsea Society on its foundation in 1927 and took the keenest interest in its proceedings. It is said on good authority that she never missed a meeting. Did she ever miss a meeting of any of her societies or committees? She fought vigorously for Chelsea amenities. In fact the word "fighting" is the right word to use to describe most of Ethel Collum's activities. She was an indefatigable worker and fighter—a veritable Sarah Battle.

It is impossible, in writing an obituary notice for this Report, to confine it to the specific objects of the Chelsea Society. Ethel Collum had so many interests: the Navy League; the British Legion; the National Savings Campaign; the Empire; the Conservative and Unionist Cause; the Sea Cadets; the Borough Council.

In 1931 Ethel Collum was proposed as a Member of the Chelsea Borough Council by Sir Ernest Meinertzhagen, L.C.C., a former Chairman of the Conservative and Unionist Association. She was elected in November 1931 and served continuously until November, 1945. She was at various times appointed to a large number of committees of a routine nature and she also served on the Air Raid Precautions Committee and the Chelsea Savings Committee.

In the history of Ethel Collum's activities, one of the first in order of time was her work at the Ministry of Pensions in the First World War. She fought the cases of claimants with determination and perseverance and earned and deserved the gratitude of numbers of men who might otherwise have been overlooked or neglected.

All through the difficult inter-war years she upheld the cause of Imperial Unity, a cause that commanded her unfailing support up to her last illness. It was in 1925 that her activity in the Navy League led to the formation of the Chelsea Sea Cadets: perhaps her favourite interest of all. The Committee of the Chelsea Branch of the Navy League was always aware of Ethel Collum at every one of its meetings; and so was the Executive of the Chelsea Conservative and Unionist Association. At the latter, and at all political meetings she attended. Ethel Collum invariably asked two questions: searching questions at that.

During the Second World War her zeal was most conspicuous in the National Savings Campaign; and this on the top of all the work she did for the British Legion. To each and every one of her causes or interests she brought the same tremendous drive and enthusiasm. She was never satisfied with any partial success; in fact she was very unlikely to admit complete satisfaction that the object had been achieved or the target hit. A naval tribute and comparison would have pleased her. She was Nelsonic in her attitude: "Had we taken ten sail of the line and allowed the eleventh to escape I could never have called it well done".

R. L. E.

Lord Esher's Address

Lord Esher began his address by saying that, though fate had deprived him of a home in Chelsea, he was not completely out of touch with the Council because, as Chairman of the Central Council of Civic Societies, he had always read the Society's excellent reports, which appeared to have an atmosphere of sumptuous prosperity which was most pleasing in these precarious days. Their great charm was that they reflected the virtue of a great variety of subjects and interests. He noticed from among the illustrations two Greaves drawings of 1858 and 1879 and thought how charming Chelsea looked then; but immediately he recalled that it was the artists' eye that was responsible, carefully selecting, cheating a little, making the world more attractive than it really is. He congratulated the Society with regard to Old Swan House on being progressive enough to stand up for Norman Shaw. He had a good word to say for the revolutionaries with whom he included himself, and by inference the Society, and said he had seen them carry the fashion forward from Strawberry Hill Gothic to Regency and Victorian forms of design. Notions vary like the fashions with the year. The public should not be so carried away by the antique as to eschew every modern building. Care must, of course, be exercised in villages; but towns are a medley, a jangle of many tunes, giving an overall but not period character, needing infinite care to retain.

Lord Esher advised the Society to look forward to the good times that were coming. He referred to the atomic age. Houses, for instance, could be heated from a central source of atomic energy, the apparatus for a whole town being no larger than the lectern before him. He reminded the Society of the unlimited sums of money now spent on armaments which once the fact that they are obsolete is admitted would be released to revitalise our civilisation. He concluded by prophesying a rich future for Chelsea.

The Annual General Meeting

of the Chelsea Society was held at Crosby Hall, Cheyne Walk, Chelsea

on Friday, 1st April, 1955, at 5.30 p.m.

The Mayor of Chelsea having accepted an invitation to be Chairman of the meeting began by welcoming the distinguished company of Members and their guests.

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday, 8th April, 1954, as printed in the Annual Report 1954, were taken as read and signed by Mr. Marsden-Smedley.

The Mayor then called on Mr. Marsden-Smedley to move the adoption of the Chairman's Report which had already been circulated to the Society as part of the Annual Report 1954. He pointed out that the Annual Report still followed the original lines of the earlier reports compiled by the late Mr. Reginald Blunt beginning with the first one in 1928. The format was much the same, the paragraphed references to the Society's activities, the products of historical research, discussions regarding the things of the locality which give pleasure, protests about the ill-treatment or destruction of those things and interferences with the residents' enjoyment of their surroundings. There is even a continuity in the subject matter of some of the illustrations. For instance, there are in the back numbers of the Annual Report at least three representations of the Old Swan, of which the Greaves drawing illustrated in page 14 makes a fourth. The drawing in the Annual Report 1931-32 is another of the many Greaves sketches of this time. The current reports, like the earlier ones, still show that a difference of opinion occurs from time to time with the Authorities; criticism, however, is the right

of the citizen and the Society have always done their duty in that line (laughter).

Research too has been an important function of the Society at all times since their foundation. Mr. Marsden-Smedley went on to remind the Society that every time a member went out of his front door, he could, if he knew how, find something of interest to the mind, something to add pleasure to the walk, something to increase the enjoyment of living in Chelsea. He explained, however, that in order to enjoy one's surroundings one had to know about the history of the place and be ready to give some thought to the current trends and the local traditions of all the arts. The Society had always contributed to research into the history and the artistic pro ducts of Chelsea such as pictures and porcelain.

Another activity which has continued throughout the life of the Society has been the war upon nuisances; smoke, smell noise and the many varieties of traffic nuisance. One had sometimes heard complaints of the townsman visiting the country, trampling corn and leaving gates open; but it was nothing to the nuisances those who lived near towns did to town dwellers, by noisy vans and motors, cars parked so as to obstruct a householder's approach to his own house and so on. A major object of the Society has always been, and will continue to be the making of representations to the Authority concerned about nuisances which interfere with the amenities of the locality.

Mr. Marsden-Smedley then referred to some of the activities of the Society during the year and, in particular, to the delightful summer meeting that had been held in Moravian Close at the kind invitation of Mrs. Ernest Gillick; an excellent account by Sir Albert Napier was included in the Annual Report. There were also accounts of the unveiling of the plaque commemorating the residence of Oscar Wilde in Tite Street and the six Autumn lectures on *The Victorian and Modern Movement in Architecture*. By these lectures it was intended to see how far there was in existence a contemporary

style of architecture suitable for the vast building projects being planned now that licensing had been ended. Mr. Furneaux Jordan contended that as the roots of contemporary architecture lay in the immediate past, it was necessary to study 19th and 20th century architecture. A most interesting and instructive series of lectures followed. It was, of course, the proper approach, namely to put the Society and the public in possession of the facts and let them work out the answer. Mr. Marsden-Smedley admitted, however, that, having attended all the lectures, he still felt a little hazy on the subject of a contemporary style of architecture. He was hoping for a contemporary Mr. Ruskin who would tell him what he ought to like (laughter).

Mrs. Worsley and the other Chelsea embroiderers and weavers are to be congratulated on their original enterprise in organising the work which produced the wonderful kneelers, which formed the subject of an article by Miss Henrietta Lyall in the Annual Report, 1954. She was also to be thanked for the most interesting exhibition of kneelers on two tables at the side of the hall. Mr. Marsden-Smedley called for volunteers to work more kneelers.

Finally he announced that an appeal for £40,000 was being launched in May for the Old Church rebuilding and furnishing of the Old Church and for the provision of a parish hall.

Mr. Marsden-Smedley then moved the adoption of the report; the motion was seconded by Mrs. Rupert Gleadow and carried unanimously.

The Mayor then called upon Lord Cadogan. Lord Cadogan then moved, Mr. Fairbairn seconded, and it was agreed that, no fresh nominations having been received, the Council of the Society and others be confirmed in their office. Next the accounts were agreed to and Mr. J. V. Astell was thanked for his services and unanimously reappointed Hon. Auditor on the motion of Mr. O'Rorke seconded by Admiral Durnford.

The Mayor then called upon Mr. Marsden-Smedley to introduce Lord Esher. After reminding the Society of a few of Lord Esher's great qualities, Mr. Marsden-Smedley said Lord Esher needed no introduction as, when he lived in Chelsea, he had been a Member of the Society.

Lord Esher then delivered an address, full of elegance and wit, a short account of which is given at page 81.

The Mayor then called upon Lord Cadogan, who proposed a vote of thanks to Lord Esher which was carried with acclamation. Lord Esher having replied, Mr. Marsden-Smedley proposed a vote of thanks, likewise carried with acclamation, to the Mayor for taking the chair and to the Mayoress for gracing the platform so becomingly.

GENERAL FUND ACCOUNT

Statement of Income and Expenditure for the Year ended 31st December, 1955

INCOME	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
To Balance brought forward, 1st Jan., 1955		205 10 2
„ Members:—		
Life Members ...	143 17 0	
Annual Subscriptions	195 1 0	
Donations	33 1 0	
Entrance Fees ...	21 13 0	
		393 12 0
„ Sales of Annual Reports		5 7 0
„ Interest on £500 of 3½% War Stock ...		17 10 0
„ Interest on Deposit in P.O.S. Bank ...		4 17 6
		£626 16 8

EXPENDITURE	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
By Annual General Meeting		33 11 0
„ Annual Report ...		241 8 7
„ Bank Charges ...		1 5 2
„ Clerical Assistance ...		35 0 0
„ Garden Party ...		18 10 0
„ Photographs		5 16 6
„ Postage		19 12 4
„ Printing		24 8 10
„ Stationery		13 14 2
„ Subscription to Central Council of Civic Societies		2 2 0
„ Balance:—		
Cash in hand ...	3 6 0	
At Barclays Bank ...	190 18 1	
P.O.S. Bank (interest)	37 4 0	
		231 8 1
		£626 16 8

E. HALTON,
Hon. Treasurer.

15th January, 1956.

Audited and found correct.
R. J. V. ASTELL, A.C.A.,
Hon. Auditor.

22nd January, 1956.

NOTE.—The Certificates for £500 3½% War Stock in the name of The Chelsea Society are deposited with Messrs. Barclays Bank, Ltd., 348, King's Road, Chelsea, S.W.3.

CHELSEA OLD CHURCH RESTORATION FUND ACCOUNT

Statement of Income and Expenditure for the Year ended 31st December, 1955

INCOME	£	s.	d.
To Balance brought forward 1st January 1955	126	3	7
„ Interest for 1955	3	3	0
	£129	6	7

EXPENDITURE	£	s.	d.
By Balance in P.O.S. Bank	129	6	7
	£129	6	7

E. HALTON,
Hon. Treasurer.

15th January, 1956.

Audited and found correct.
R. J. V. ASTELL, A.C.A.,
Hon. Auditor.
22nd January, 1956.

REGINALD BLUNT MEMORIAL FUND ACCOUNT

Statement of Income and Expenditure for the Year ended 31st December, 1955

INCOME	£	s.	d.
To Balance brought forward 1st January 1955	46	12	2
„ Interest for 1955	1	3	6
	£47	15	8

EXPENDITURE	£	s.	d.
By Balance in P.O.S. Bank	47	15	8
	£47	15	8

E. HALTON,
Hon. Treasurer.

15th January, 1956.

Audited and found correct.
R. J. V. ASTELL, A.C.A.,
Hon. Auditor.
22nd January, 1956.

ANALYSIS OF POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK ACCOUNT

As at 31st December, 1955

	£	s.	d.
General Fund Account	200	3	6
Reginald Blunt Memorial Fund Account	47	15	8
Chelsea Old Church Restoration Fund Account	129	6	7
	£377	5	9

List of Members

An asterisk denotes a life member. The Hon. Secretary should be informed of corrections or changes in name, title or address.

*Miss K. Acland, O.B.E.
Frederick Adam, Esq., C.M.G.
Mrs. W. Scott Adie
*Mrs. M. Alford
Mrs. Allen
*Mrs. Rupert Allhusen
R. A. Alston, Esq.
Miss Annie Anderson
Miss Mary Anderson
*Douglas H. Andrew, Esq.
*Miss G. Andrews
Felix Ansermoz, Esq.
Mrs. Felix Ansermoz
Miss E. Arbuthnot
*Mrs. John Armstrong
*Mrs. R. T. Assheton
Mrs. B. E. Assheton,
*R. J. V. Astell, Esq.
*Mrs. R. J. V. Astell
A. E. A. Atkins, Esq.

Lady Bailey
Miss M. G. Ball
*Miss Jean Barrie
*Miss A. M. G. Beaton
*G. A. Beaton, Esq.
*Miss J. F. Beaton
*Miss Enid Moberley Bell
Miss Eleanor Best
*Miss W. L. Bilbie
*Noel Blakiston, Esq.
*G. K. Blandy, Esq.
*Mrs. G. K. Blandy
*P. Raymond Bodkin, Esq.
*Miss Muriel Bond
*F. A. Bool, Esq.
*Miss Nancy Bool
*Miss S. K. Boord
Mrs. H. Borner
Mrs. John Bottereli
*Mrs. James Bottomley
Miss Gladys Boyd
*Miss M. D. Boyd
Major E. H. Bramall
Mrs. E. H. Bramall
Miss Maude Breckles
*The Hon. Virginia Brett
*Miss Victoria Bridgeman
Miss M. G. Brolly
R. A. Bromley-Davenport, Esq.
The Rt. Hon. Sir Norman Brook, G.C.B.
Lady Brook
*Miss Anthony Brown
J. Francis Brown, Esq.
W. H. Buchanan, Esq.
*J. Buckley, Esq.
*Miss Hilda Buckmaster
Lilian Lady Bull
*G. F. A. Burgess, Esq.

*The Earl Cadogan, M.C.
*Mrs. Hugh Campbell
Miss Sybil Campbell, O.B.E.
Miss Mary Campion, O.B.E.
Mrs. F. Anstruther Cardew
John Carroll, Esq.
Mrs. D. Carson-Roberts
I. O. Chance, Esq.
Mrs. I. O. Chance
E. J. Chapman, Esq.
Miss G. P. E. Chatfield
Chelsea Old Church Embroiderers & Weavers
Mrs. Dora Chirnside
Mrs. R. A. Chisholm
*Miss M. B. A. Churchard
Mrs. P. U. Clark
R. D. Clarke, Esq.
Miss Ruth Clark
*Charles Clay, Esq., C.B., F.S.A.
*The Hon. Mrs. C. T. Clay
*Miss Edith Clay
Miss Julia Clements
W. A. Cleverley, Esq.
A. W. Cockburn, Esq., Q.C.
Dennis M. Cohen, Esq.
*Mrs. J. B. Cole
Miss E. Coleman
Miss Dorothy Colles
F. A. Leslie Collis, Esq.
G. Collman, Esq.
*The Lord Conesford, Q.C.
The Lady Conesford
Dr. D. M. Coulson

A. L. Cowtan, Esq., M.C.
Mrs. A. L. Cowtan
Trenchard Cox, Esq., C.B.E.
Mrs. Trenchard Cox
Mrs. Stafford Crawley
Mrs. G. T. Cregan
Mrs. W. G. Croft
Miss M. Crombie
The Rev. Eric Cross
George Cross, Esq.
Mrs. Leicester Curzon-Howe

Miss Anne Dalby
The Hon. Lady Dalrymple-White
Mrs. Denis Daly
Mrs. John Daniell, M.B.E.
*Miss Esther Darlington
Miss E. M. Davis
*Mrs. A. H. B. Dawson
Captain C. G. T. Dean, M.B.E.
Mrs. C. G. T. Dean
T. G. Deason, Esq.
Sir Gavin de Beer, F.R.S.
Lady de Beer
R. G. de Feremebre, Esq., F.R.S.A.
Mrs. W. de l'Hopital, O.B.E.
*The Viscount de L'Isle, V.C.
Mrs. Roderick Denman, M.B.E.
Mrs. G. H. Dennehy
Miss Joan Derriman
*Leonard B. L. de Sabran, Esq.
Mrs. D. G. des Voeux
*Anthony Devas, Esq.
Mary, Duchess of Devonshire, D.C.V.O., C.B.E.
The Rev. A. de Zulueta
Arthur H. Dixon, Esq.
Mrs. E. M. Muir Dixon
Mrs. E. M. Drummond-Smith
Miss Margaret Duffus
E. T. S. Dugdale, Esq.
Mrs. T. C. Dugdale
Major-General N. W. Duncan, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.
Lady Dunstan
*Vice-Admiral J. W. Durnford, C.B.
*T. V. S. Durrant, Esq.
Miss A. B. Dutton

Mrs. John Eastwood
Guy Edmiston, Esq.
R. Edmonds, Esq.
Captain Richard Edwards, R.N., L.C.C.
Mrs. Richard Edwards
*John Ehrman, Esq.
Miss Doris Eldridge
The Lady Alethea Eliot
*T. S. Eliot, Esq., O.M.
*Mrs. James Ellis
Wilfred Elliston, Esq.
Ruthven Evans, Esq.
Mrs. Ruthven Evans
Mrs. William F. Everett

Ian Fairbairn, Esq.
*Stuart Faire, Esq.
Mrs. O. M. Fisher
*Lady Forster-Cooper
*Major A. W. Foster
Miss May Fountain
John Beresford Fowler, Esq.
Sir Geoffrey Fry, Bart., K.C.B., C.V.O.
Miss Muriel Fulford

*Senor Don Antonio Gandarillas
Eric George, Esq.
Mrs. Eric George
*Miss M. V. Gibson
Mrs. Ernest Gillick, O.B.E.
*Miss M. C. Glasgow, C.B.E.
Mrs. H. Gleadow
Admiral J. H. Godfrey, C.B.
Walter H. Godfrey, Esq., C.B.E., F.S.A., F.R.I.B.A.
David Goldblatt, Esq.
William E. Goodair, Esq.
Mrs. K. Gore
Mrs. Vaux Graham
L. M. Gray, Esq.
Mrs. E. A. Green
*Robin Green, Esq.
W. R. Green, Esq.
Dr. Raymond Greene, M.A., D.M., F.R.C.P.
*Miss Jean Greig
*R. P. Grenfell, Esq.
*Mrs. R. P. Grenfell
*The Lady Greville
Mrs. H. B. R. Grey-Edwards
*Mrs. Grey-Turner
Mrs. W. S. A. Griffith
A. G. Grimwade, Esq.
*Miss J. A. C. Gutteridge

Miss M. Hailey
Miss Lilian Hall
*Major E. D. Halton
Nicholas Hannen, Esq., O.B.E.
*Miss D. Janet Harding
*Miss Olive Hargreaves
E. J. Harman, Esq., L.R.I.B.A.
Kenneth H. Harris, Esq.
Miss D. M. Harrison
*Miss Mildred Hastings
*John Hayward, Esq., C.B.E.
*Lady Heath
E. V. Heather, Esq.
*Mrs. C. Hely-Hutchinson
Lady Henderson
*Ralph A. Henderson, Esq.
*H. L. Q. Henriques, Esq.
*Mrs. H. Henriques
Miss M. G. Henry
Miss Iris Hervey-Bathurst
Miss A. P. Hewitt
*Miss Olive Heywood
*Mrs. D. M. Hill
Mrs. Hilliers
Miss C. Hilliers
*Anthony Hippisley Coxe, Esq.
Mrs. R. Hippisley Coxe
Oliver V. G. Hoare, Esq.
*Mrs. Oliver V. G. Hoare
Miss L. Hocknell
*Miss C. E. Holland
Mrs. D. E. Holland-Martin, O.B.E.
Gerard Hopkins, Esq.
*Miss Diana Hornby
Miss Margaret Hornby
Mrs. Houlder
*Capt. D. R. Howison
*Miss Janet A. Howison
*Mrs. O. Howison
Miss S. D. Hudson
Mrs. Charles Hunt
Mrs. William Hunter

Charles F. Ingram, Esq.
Miss Margaret Isaac

Lady Jackson
*Miss Pamela M. Jackson
Mrs. M. Jago
Mrs. R. E. Jebb
Mrs. M. A. Jenks

J. D. Kelley, Esq.
Mrs. C. G. Kemball
Louis Kentner, Esq.
*R. W. Graham Kerr, Esq.
*Miss A. M. Keyser
General Sir Harry Knox, K.C.B., D.S.O.

Miss Joan M. Laing
Miss Frances M. Langton
Miss Mary Langton
A. V. Lawes, Esq.
Mrs. J. W. Lawson
Gilbert Ledward, Esq., R.A.
Miss Margaret Legge
John Lehmann, Esq.
Benn W. Levy, Esq.
Mrs. E. B. Lewis
Commander E. R. Lewis, R.N., Rtd.
N. M. H. Lightfoot, Esq.
T. M. Ling, Esq., M.D., M.R.C.P.
*Miss Ruth Loch, O.B.E.
*Miss L. Lumley
*Miss A. M. Lupton
*Mrs. Michael Lupton
*Miss Henrietta Lyall
*Miss Mellicent Lyall, M.B.E.
Mrs. Reginald Lygon

*Mrs. H. MacColl
Miss Elaine MacDonald
*Alasdair Alpin MacGregor, Esq.
Mrs. Keith MacKenzie
*J. A. MacNabb, Esq.
James Macnair, Esq.
Miss Dorothy Macnamara
Mrs. Geoffrey Madan
Miss F. Maitland
Miss B. I. M. Magraw
S. A. Malden, Esq.
Lt. Col. C. L'Estrange Malone
Francis Marsden, Esq.
Basil Marsden-Smedley, Esq., O.B.E.
Mrs. Basil Marsden-Smedley
Cmdr. John Marsden-Smedley, R.N., Rtd.
Mrs. John Marsden-Smedley
Luke Marsden-Smedley, Esq.
W. A. Martin, Esq.
Mrs. W. A. Martin
*A. A. Martineau, Esq.
L. W. Matthews, Esq.
*Sir Edward Maufe, R.A.
*Lady Maufe

*Gareth Maufe, Esq.
Miss B. L. Maunsell
A. R. Maxwell-Hyslop, Esq.
Miss C. E. May
Sir Michael McDonnell, K.B.E.
Miss Dorothy McDougall
Miss Helen McKie
John McKiernan, Esq., F.C.I.S.
A. E. McLaren, Esq.
*C. S. McNulty, Esq.
*The Hon. Mrs. Philip Meldon
Mrs. Melvill Miller
Mrs. E. Mitchell
Miss R. de B. Monk
Miss Gerda Morgan
*A. G. Morris, Esq.
*Mrs. A. G. Morris
Michael Morris, Esq.
J. W. F. Morton, Esq.
*Mrs. Jocelyn Morton, A.R.I.B.A.
*The Lady Mostyn
*The Lord Moyne
*Miss Elizabeth Murphy-Grimshaw
*Miss Emily Murray

*The Hon. Sir Albert Napier, K.C.B., K.C.V.O., Q.C.
The Hon. Lady Napier
Miss M. Gilliat Naylor, B.E.M.
P. A. Negretti, Esq.
Mrs. J. Macmillan Neild
Miss B. Amy Neville
*Mrs. Newton
*Mons. Jean Nieuwenhuys
*Madame Nieuwenhuys
*Cmdr. Allan Noble, D.S.O., D.S.C., R.N., M.P.
Mrs. E. A. Nöel
Mrs. Northcroft
S. C. Nott, Esq.

G. R. Oake, Esq., C.B.
Mrs. Amy Ochs
*Dr. Ripley Oddie
Mrs. Denys Oppe
Mrs. V. Ormond
H. Clare A. O'Rorke, Esq.

General Sir Bernard Paget, G.C.B., D.S.O., M.C.
*Miss Dorothy Palmer
The Paultons Square Residents' Association
The Hon. Mrs. Home Peel
Lawrence Pegg, Esq.
Miss Maud Pelham, O.B.E., J.P.
*Mrs. Stanley Peters
*Sir Geoffrey Peto, K.B.E.
The Rev. F. A. Piachaud, M.A., B.D.
*The Hon. Dorothy Pickford, O.B.E., J.P.
Mrs. A. E. Pinder-Wilson
Lady Pinney
Miss Gertrude Pohlman
*Sir Spencer Portal, Bart.
Miss Louise Hoyt Porter
*A. D. Power, Esq.
Gordon Pringle, Esq., M.B.E., M.A., F.R.I.B.A.

Miss Irene Rathbone
The Baroness Ravensdale
*Miss Heather Rawson
R. F. Rees, Esq., M.B.E.
Mrs. R. F. Rees
Messrs. A. J. Reffold & Partners, Ltd.
Miss Hilda Reid
H. M. Rennie, Esq.
J. M. Richards, Esq.
*Mrs. Norman Richards
Sir Arthur Richmond, C.B.E.
Mrs. D. M. Riddel
Geoffrey Rippon, Esq., L.C.C.
*Mrs. M. Rogerson-Flower
Miss Patience Ropes
Miss Muriel Rose
Mrs. Margery Ross
*Miss A. Royalton-Kisch, A.R.I.C.S.
*Mrs. E. C. Ruggles-Brise
Miss Averil Russell, M.B.E.
Richard F. Russell, Esq.
Mrs. E. Russell-Scarr
Ronald B. C. Ryall, Esq.
Mrs. A. D. Ryder

The Rev. Ralph Sadleir
Mrs. Ralph Sadleir
Miss Enid St. Aubyn
The Marquess of Salisbury, K.G.
The Lord Salter, G.B.E., K.C.B.
The Lady Salter
Miss Evelyn Samuel
Miss E. Sands
Miss Daphne Sanger
Miss Maisie Schwartze
Mrs. Dudley Scott
*Miss Isabel Scott-Elliot