

THE CHELSEA SOCIETY



SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1934

To be presented at the Annual Meeting to be held
at Shelley House, Chelsea Embankment, by kind
invitation of the Chairman, Mr. C. H. St. John Hornby,
on Thursday, May 17th, 1934, at 5.30 o'clock



THE CARLYLES' HOUSE, CHEYNE ROW

THE CHELSEA SOCIETY

(For protecting and fostering the amenities of Chelsea. Founded: April, 1927)

President: THE RT. HON. LORD ERNLE, P.C., M.V.O.

Vice Presidents:

HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF ATHOLL, K.T., P.C., G.C.V.O., C.B., D.S.O.

THE RT. HON. MARY COUNTESS OF LOVELACE

GENERAL SIR WALTER BRAITHWAITE, G.C.B.

Council:

Chairman: MR. C. H. ST. J. HORNBY

BRIG.-GEN. LIONEL BANON, C.B.

MR. REGINALD BLUNT, C.B.E.

MR. E. J. CHAPMAN (Chelsea Chamber of Commerce)

MR. PERCY LOVELL (London Society)

FLORA, MRS. MACLEOD OF MACLEOD

MR. BASIL MARSDEN-SMEDLEY (L.C.C.)

LT.-COL. MERVYN O'GORMAN, C.B.

MR. GRAHAM PETRIE (Chelsea Arts Club)

SIR EDMUND B. PHIPPS, C.B.

HON. DOROTHY PICKFORD

Hon. Secretary and Treasurer:

REGINALD BLUNT, 12, Carlyle Mansions, Cheyne Walk, S.W.3.

Assistant Honorary Secretary:

MISS DAPHNE SANGER, 58, Oakley Street, S.W.3.

Bankers:

Barclay's Bank, 348, King's Road, S.W.3.

THE OBJECTS OF THE SOCIETY ARE TO AID:—

- (1) in the maintenance of all features of Chelsea having beauty or historical interest, unless a proved necessity requires their removal;
- (2) in the preservation of the open spaces for the health of the community;
- (3) where clearances are necessary, in the construction of substituted buildings that will be a credit to Chelsea;
- (4) in preventing the disfigurement of streets and open spaces by ugly advertisements or otherwise;
- (5) in preserving the residents from smoke, noises and other nuisances arising from industrial premises; and generally,
- (6) in protecting and amplifying the amenities of Chelsea for all classes of its people.

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

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

MEMBERS.

Membership of the Society is open to all residents in Chelsea, and to non-residents who may, in the opinion of the Council, be qualified by official or other association with Chelsea. Members ceasing to be residents shall cease to be members, except with the approval of the Council and on such terms as they may think fit.

There is no annual subscription to the Society, but members must, on election, pay a minimum subscription of £1. Should further funds be needed to carry on the work of the Society, it is proposed to raise them from time to time by voluntary subscriptions amongst the members and others.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS.

Chelsea residents engaged in trade, and Chelsea art and other students are invited to join the Society as Associate Members, if they so desire.

The Entrance Fee for Associate Members is 5/- entitling them to such membership for 3 years.

Associate Members may attend and speak at all Meetings of the Society, but are not empowered to vote.

THE CHELSEA SOCIETY

By the kind invitation of the Chairman

The Seventh Annual General Meeting

TO WHICH ALL MEMBERS & ASSOCIATES ARE CORDIALLY INVITED

WILL TAKE PLACE AT

SHELLEY HOUSE
CHELSEA EMBANKMENT

ON

Thursday, May 17th, at Five-thirty o'clock

Mr. C. H. St. J. Hornby
in the Chair

The following Speakers have been invited to give

Ten Minute Talks

about Chelsea amenities with which they are
particularly associated

Flora, Mrs. Macleod of Macleod,
Chelsea Housing Improvement Society

Miss Hilda Field, *Chelsea Gardens Guild*

Miss Macnamara, *Chelsea Children's Play Centre*

THE SUMMER MEETING OF THE CHELSEA SOCIETY

Tuesday, June 12th, 1934

This being the Centenary year of the coming of Thomas and Jane Welsh Carlyle to the little house in Cheyne Row, Chelsea, in which the whole remainder of their lives was spent, it seemed specially appropriate that a visit to that historic home should form part of the Society's Summer Meeting this year, and the following programme has accordingly been drawn up.

Tuesday, June 12th

By arrangement with the Trustees of Carlyle's House, 24, Cheyne Row, the House and Garden will be open to Ticket Holders from 2.30 o'clock. Some Members of the Trust have kindly undertaken to act as hosts and guides, and some special exhibits will be on view.

At 4.30 the party will proceed to the Garden of Chelsea Rectory by the kind invitation of the Rector of Chelsea, Rev. W. Gordon Arrowsmith, entering by the gate at the top of Cheyne Row. Here Tea will be served and Mrs. Carlyle's own particular tea from Fortnum & Masons (see her letter to Jeannie Welsh, 18th January, 1843), will be used.

At 5.30, Mrs. Mary Agnes Hamilton (author of the admirable brochure "Thomas Carlyle" in the Travellers' Library), will give a short address on

"Thomas and Jane"

Tickets, price Half-a-crown each (including Tea) can be obtained from the Secretary, 12, Carlyle Mansions, Cheyne Walk, S.W.3, or from Miss Daphne Sanger, 58, Oakley Street, S.W.3.

Members requiring further Tickets for friends should apply early, as the number of these must be limited.

The whole net proceeds will be given to the Carlyle's House Endowment Fund, which is greatly in need of support.

A Form of Application for Tickets is enclosed with the Report.



A CORNER OF CHELSEA RECTORY GARDEN

CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
COUNCIL AND PROSPECTUS - - - - -	5
THIS YEAR'S ANNUAL AND SUMMER MEETINGS - -	7
REPORT OF SIXTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - -	11
SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNCIL - -	13
NOTES ON THE ILLUSTRATIONS - - - - -	31
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE - -	34
LIST OF MEMBERS - - - - -	36
NOTA BENE - - - - -	39

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

(For particulars see Notes, page 31.)

1. THE CARLYLES' HOUSE, CHEYNE ROW	Frontispiece
<i>From an etching by Walter Burgess.</i>	
2. A CORNER OF CHELSEA RECTORY GARDEN	9
<i>From a water colour sketch by Everard Hulton</i>	
3. CHELSEA REACH, LOOKING TOWARDS BATTERSEA	16
<i>From Lupton's engraving of Thomas Girtin's drawing, 1800.</i>	
4. CHELSEA BRIDGE	20
<i>From a photograph, Architectural Press.</i>	
5. PERSPECTIVE VIEW OF THE NEW CHELSEA BRIDGE	22
<i>From the drawing at The County Hall.</i>	
6. THE DRAWING ROOM AT No. 5, CHEYNE ROW, 1857	28
<i>From the oil painting by Robert Tait, now at Cheyne Row.</i>	
7. AUGUSTINE BIRRELL	32
<i>From a photograph by H. J. Whitlock & Sons, Ltd.</i>	
8. "CHELSEA" VIRGINIA, 1709	35
<i>From a photograph sent to the Chelsea Society.</i>	

REPORT OF THE SIXTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

(abstracted from the Minutes)

The Sixth Annual General Meeting of the Society was held at Crosby Hall, Cheyne Walk on the 11th of May, 1933. There were about 80 members present.

Mr. C. H. St. J. Hornby, Chairman, presided.

Letters regretting inability to attend were read from Lord Ernle, the President, Sir Samuel Hoare, Rev. Gordon Arrowsmith, Lady Bertha Dawkins, Miss St. John Partridge, Lady Scott-Moncrieff and others.

The Minutes of the Fifth Annual Meeting were confirmed and signed.

In moving the adoption of the Sixth Annual Report (which had been circulated to members, and was taken as read), the Chairman, after briefly reviewing the various matters dealt with in the Council's Report, referred with regret to the deaths of Mr. Horniman and Sir Ernest Meinertzhagen, and congratulated their Secretary on the honour he had recently received.

Mr. Basil Marsden Smedley, in seconding the motion, emphasised the value of its amenities to a place like Chelsea, and spoke particularly of the care and proper treatment of its trees.

The Earl of Crawford and Balcarres, speaking, as a non-resident of Chelsea but greatly interested in local life, supported the motion, comparing the life of capital cities and of small communities in England with those abroad, and commending the Society's effort to preserve and protect the wonderful tradition built up by our ancestors about Chelsea.

The adoption of the Report was carried.

The Duke of Atholl moved the appointment to the Council of Mrs. Hubert Walter and the Hon. Dorothy Pickford, whose work in other spheres he emphasised. As a Chelsea resident he could endorse Lord Crawford's reference to the friendliness of the place; and he hoped and believed the Society would do something to check the sort of "Progress" which threatened to obliterate our

beautiful surroundings and to squeeze taste and tradition out of our existence.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Stuart Todd and approved.

Mrs. Hubert Walter moved a vote of thanks to the Warden of Crosby Hall and Mrs. Russell for their hospitality, which was seconded by Sir Edmund Phipps and passed with acclamation; and the meeting closed with thanks to the Chairman.

NOTE.

A few copies of the following Illustrated issues by the Society remain on hand, and can be posted on application to the Secretary at 12, Carlyle Mansions, Cheyne Walk, Chelsea, S.W.3, enclosing postal order or stamps for the amounts stated :

First Annual Report (April 1928). 6d.

Second Annual Report (April 1929). 6d.

Third Annual Report (April 1930). 6d.

Fourth Annual Report (April 1931). 6d.

Fifth Annual Report (April 1932). 6d.

Sixth Annual Report (April 1933). 6d.

Catalogue of the Chelsea Exhibition (June 1927). 1s.3d.

"Chelsea a Hundred Years Ago" (November 1929) can be obtained at Chelsea Public Library.

Chelsea Old Church—An illustrated Historical Guide Book by Archdeacon Stewart. Edited, with various additional matter by Reginald Blunt. 2s 9d. by post, or, at the Old Church, 2s. 6d.

THE CHELSEA SOCIETY

Founded—April, 1927

“To protect and foster the amenities of Chelsea”

*The Council of the Chelsea Society presents
the seventh Annual Report, for the year
ending March 31st, 1934*

WITH the exception of two items, referred to later—namely, the rebuilding of Chelsea Bridge, and Embankment Traffic and Noise, the Chelsea happenings which have come under notice during the past year have been of minor importance, though of some local interest. There has been a considerable amount of rebuilding, which includes Sloane Avenue Mansions, a large cubic block of single and two-room flats in ten storeys with recessed balconies and the horizontal band lines to which twentieth century Park Lane has accustomed, but not attached us, and a third cinema house in the King's Road, with a seating capacity of 3,000, now in course of construction. The north side of the King's Road is being gradually rebuilt, but has nothing remarkable so far to show; the south side has changed very little, save that the deserted “Whitelands” has passed from the occupation of Ruskin's white robed May-maidens to that of Sir Oswald Mosley's “Blackshirts.” Sir Reginald Blomfield is, however, to be responsible for two blocks of flats adjoining the “Six Bells,” and his King's Road facade should give us something more interesting to record here next year.

TERREY'S SHOP in Cheyne Walk, which incorporated some remains of the west wing of Shrewsbury House, and the later Alston House, and of which, and the efforts for its preservation, full particulars have been given in previous Reports, was finally demolished last summer;

and with it has disappeared probably the last surviving remnant of Elizabethan Chelsea.

Its destruction had long been seen to be eventually inevitable; and after careful examination of the remains of Jacobean panelling which it contained, it was found impracticable to suggest any effective means of preserving these much damaged relics of woodwork; but the Society has at least been fortunate enough to secure the interesting water colour drawings of the rooms, which were presented by them to the Chelsea Public Library four years ago.

The hope—it was never much more than a pious aspiration—of a bold and comprehensive plan for the development of the large vacated area north east of WHITEHEAD'S GROVE and Draycott Avenue has, it seems, to be abandoned, the land being disposed of piecemeal. The river front remains happily unaltered, save for the loss of its peace and quietude.

“SMOG.”

The “burning” question of atmospheric pollution is of special interest to Chelsea, a residential quarter surrounded by factories, power-stations and large industrial units.

At a meeting of the Smoke Abatement Society last July, Sir Frank Baines estimated “the excess cost of making good the results of atmospheric impurity to our buildings for the whole country at a minimum figure of £55,000,000 to £60,000,000 sterling, during the last quarter of a century.”

Public opinion—in the enlistment and awakening of which the Chelsea Society was amongst the first to take its part—has been able to enforce, at the Battersea Power Station, the installation of apparatus to arrest the emission of noxious fumes, and we quote with pleasure a recent statement that—

“as a result of four years of intensive research and an expenditure of £250,000, the company now claims that Battersea possesses an apparatus unique in the world.

It is calculated that when fully working, the chimneys emit one and a half [million] cubic feet of "flue gas" a minute. The dangerous sulphur fumes are between .02 and .05 per cent. of this volume. By means of the complicated washing apparatus installed, 90 to 95 per cent. of these fumes are never allowed to reach the outside air.

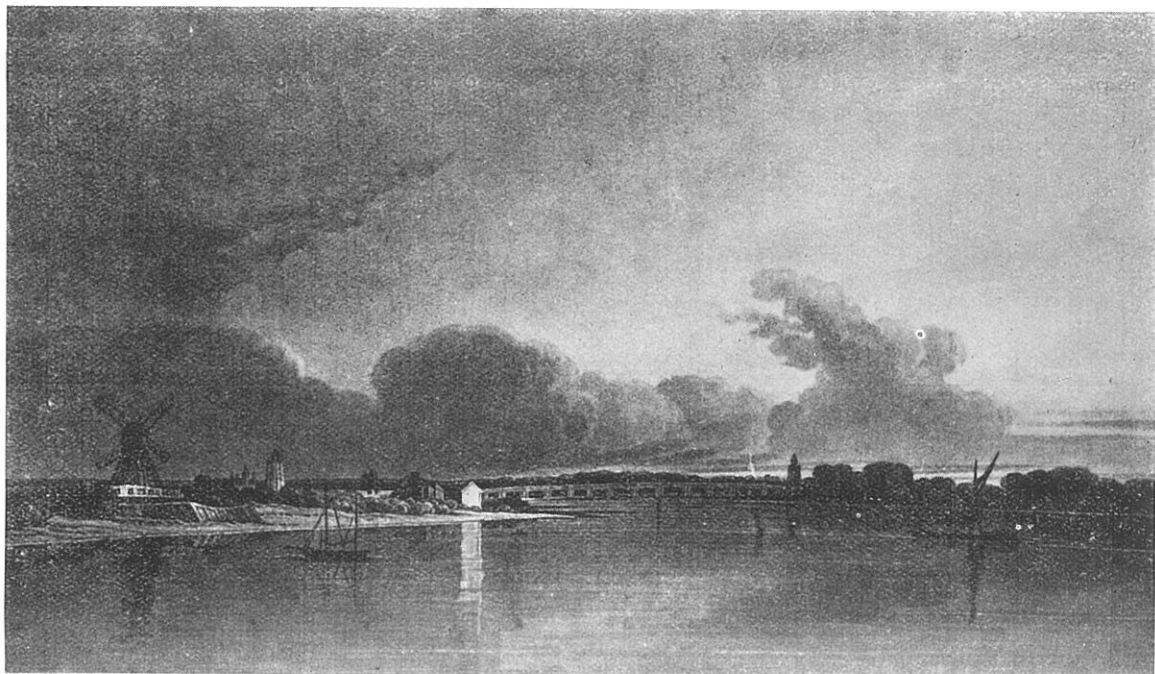
"Battersea is the first power-station in this or any other country to be so equipped," an engineer of the London Power Company said. "It has been an expensive business, but we feel that we are setting a new standard, which will have to be adopted elsewhere.

"The elimination of smoke and dust was a comparatively simple business. No chimney need smoke nowadays—it is unnecessary and wasteful. But we claim to be the first firm to have really solved the problem of dealing with the dangerous sulphur fumes."

It is gratifying to note the pride with which the Company now regard the results of a protective system into which they were somewhat reluctantly driven.

Judging by the published Kew statistics, the domestic fire must now rank as the predominant—though not, as our neighbouring Battersea factories still remind us—the only cause of atmospheric pollution. Parliament is not as yet prepared to tackle this problem effectively by prohibitive legislation; but the use of gas, electricity and smokeless fuels shews a steady increase; there is no doubt that the soot-laden density of London fogs is much less than formerly, and the remedy is now mainly in our own hands. It should be noted in this connection that riverside districts like Chelsea are often supposed to be specially liable to the incidence of fog; but statistics prove this to be erroneous. The rise and fall of the tidal Thames act as huge bellows for the inflow and dispersion of air; and the Port of London records show that river traffic is only impeded by fog during twenty-one days in the year, and then only for average periods of about three hours.

The situation of the Old Church makes its southern



Painted by Thomas Girtin

Engraved on Steel by J. Lupton

CHELSEA REACH, LOOKING TOWARDS BATTERSEA.

From the original Drawing in the possession of H. G. Wadley Esq.

front particularly vulnerable both to the vibration of Embankment traffic and to the atmospheric impurities carried by the prevailing south west wind from Battersea Factories. Some few years ago the Sloane Monument was found to be so much shaken as to be quite unsafe, and its repair was fortunately undertaken in time by the Cadogan and Stanley estates. Last year the marble inscription panel on the tomb, which had become almost illegible, was also, at the instance of this Society, replaced by a new and, it is hoped, more durable stone. This spring one of the Chamberlayne Monuments on the exterior of the South wall showed signs of collapse, and crumbled to powder when removed. It, too, had become illegible, but we know from Lysons and Faulkner that it commemorated John Chamberlayne, F.R.S., the son of Edward, the author of "The Present State of England," which was piloted by John through the later of its thirty-eight editions. John Chamberlayne was Gentleman of the Privy Chamber to Queen Anne and George I., and was the author of many books and translations, including "The Manner of Making Tea, Coffee and Chocolate," "History of the Reformation in the Low Countries," and "The Lord's Prayer in 100 Languages." He was himself a great linguist, and "given to hospitality and good offices especially to foreigners," as this now vanished Tablet recorded. "He left this mortal state in hopes of a glorious eternity, 2nd of November, 1723, aged 51."

Chelsea was a country village when the Chamberlayne family chose the outer wall of its church as the site of their numerous monuments; and it is sad that they have had to pay the price of modest courage in obliteration, whilst many earlier and less interesting records within its walls survive. Mr. Davies states that all these Chamberlayne inscriptions were recut some 40 years ago, which gives some indication of the life of marble exposed to London's vitiated weathering.

CHELSEA BRIDGE

It may be recalled that in our fourth annual Report for 1930 the intention of the London County Council to rebuild this bridge, at a point somewhat higher up the river was recorded, and an old engraving of the present bridge was then included. Your Council at once expressed the opinion that the present site of the bridge was the right one, and that the new position would entail serious encroachments both upon Ranelagh Gardens and Battersea Park, besides being out of alignment with the approach roads. Financial stringency caused the postponement of the scheme for three years, but it has now been decided to proceed at once with the new bridge.

Your Council thereupon urged, through Mr. Marsden Smedley, one of Chelsea's representatives on the L.C.C. and a Member of the Improvements Committee, that the Royal Fine Arts Commission should be brought into consultation in regard to the design. This was eventually agreed to: and the co-operation has proved both fruitful and congenial. The new bridge is to be built on the present site; and, owing to the close proximity of the Southern Railway's Victoria four-spanned bridge, a Suspension Bridge with a wide central span of 322 feet clear was found essential for river navigation. The bridge will be of steel construction, with river piers and abutments of granite, a carriage-way sufficient for four lines of traffic, and two footways of 12 to 14 feet each. Extreme simplicity has been the keynote of the design, and all extraneous ornament has been wisely avoided. Further consultation with the Royal Commissioners is promised in regard to the details of the balustrading, lamp standards and paint-colour, etc. This is altogether satisfactory and encouraging.

The Council of this Society were courteously invited by Colonel Benskin, late Chairman of the Improvements Committee, to view the plans and drawings at the County Hall in February last. A reproduction of the perspective

sketch of the new bridge and a view of the present bridge have been furnished for this report by the Architectural Press. In view of the close proximity of the Power Station, with its towering chimneys, and of the railway bridge, which entirely masks the outline of Chelsea Bridge from downstream, the restrained simplicity of the design can only be commended; and the lamps, side railing and finials should add some effective relief. One structural feature of novel interest relates to the towers over which the suspension cables pass, these being hinged at their bases to permit the slight oscillation due to variations of temperature and load. These pivoted tower-ends have an odd fragile look in profile, but are acceptable as being structurally correct.

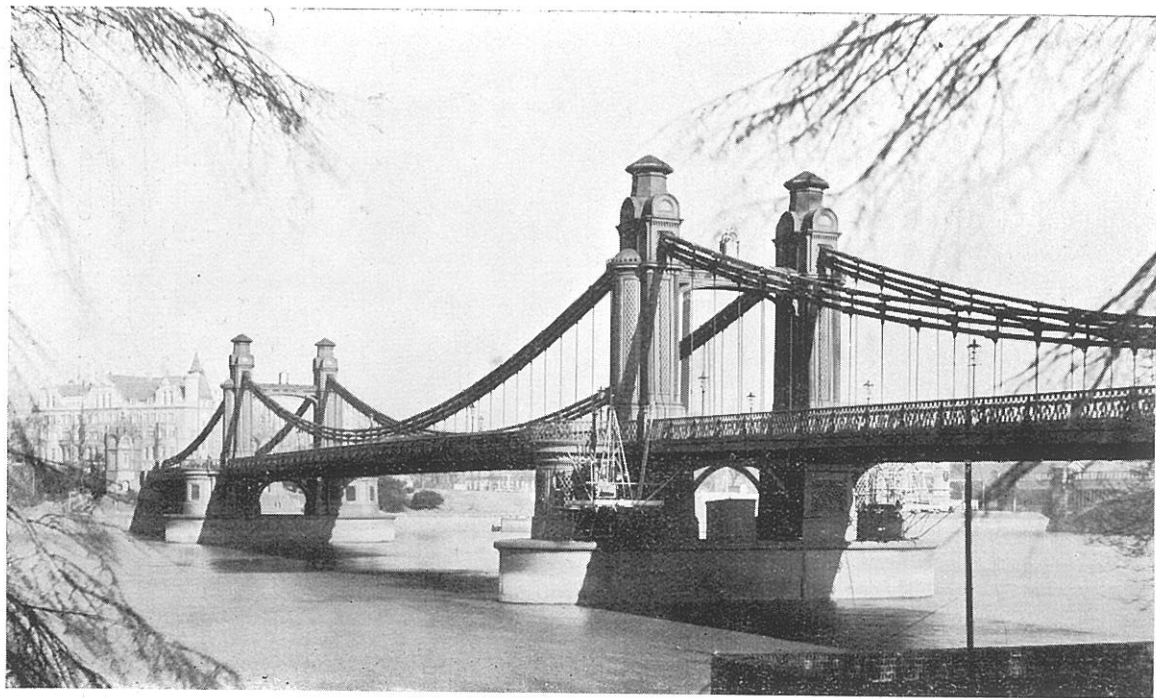
If and when Mr. William Walcot's tremendous scheme for the replanning of central London (shewn at his Grafton Street Studio this spring) takes effect, Chelsea will cease to be a riverside village; for the Thames is to be canalised in a straight line from Battersea to Greenwich. The reclaimed river bed and its abolished bends would be developed on two levels, with public parkways and residential buildings above, and central markets, traffic arteries and bomb-proof shelters below!

Meantime, whilst awaiting this millennium (?) Chelsea must continue to make the best of its Bridges, its Embankment and its possible Waterbus; and to remember that the author of the first Utopia was also a Chelsea man.

EMBANKMENT TRAFFIC.

Referring, in last year's Report, to the growing complaints of noise and excessive speed on this stretch of road, it was stated that a count, taken for the Society in the autumn of 1932, gave a total of over 1,000 vehicles (exclusive of cycles) passing a given point in an hour.

An official record taken at Swan Walk last October from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. gave a total of 13,738 vehicles in the 12 hours, or about 1,145 per hour, including cycles. The



CHELSEA BRIDGE, 1858-1934

disregard of their speed limit by heavy commercial vehicles is here habitual. The noise and the vibration are causing serious depreciation of property values. Three fatal accidents have occurred here in the last four months, and the Chelsea Borough Council has asked the Minister of Transport to consider the advisability of imposing a speed limit on this Embankment; and has itself installed high power central gas lighting. This may possibly make for safety, but is unlikely to reduce speed.

Your Council, after prolonged discussion of various suggestions, and realising that there might at present be valid objections to the imposition of a general speed limit on this thoroughfare, or to the diversion of certain classes of traffic to other routes—save as part of some agreed general plan for all London—addressed a letter last February to the Minister of Transport, urging :

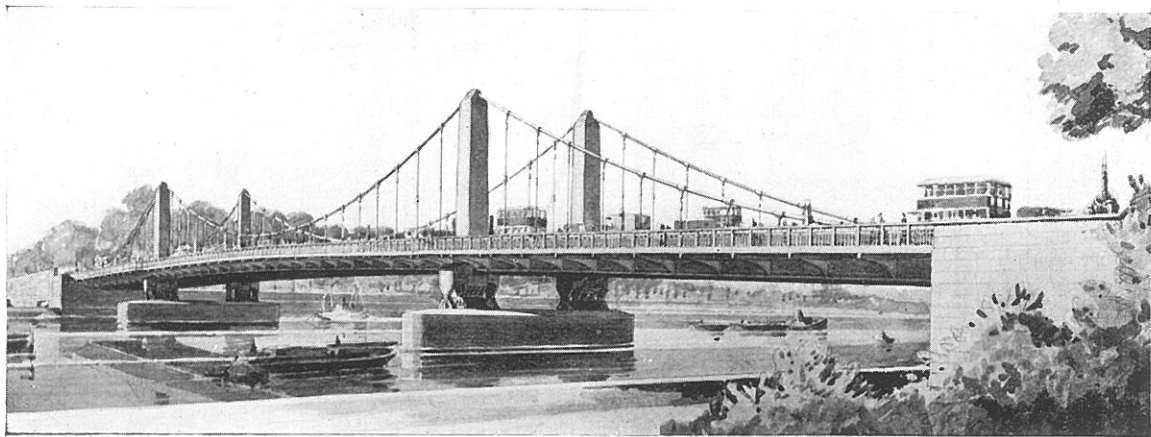
First, the more effective enforcement of the existing regulations in regard to :

- (a) Constructional defects in vehicles and Improper and insufficient loading (notably as regards noise);
- (b) Ineffective exhaust silencers, particularly on motor-cycles; and
- (c) The speed limit for heavy commercial vehicles.

Secondly, the provision of marked pedestrian crossing places at, or near, Battersea, Albert and Chelsea Bridges, and also at certain intermediate points to be selected, with the approved Crossing Indicators where such crossings are not under Traffic Signal or Police Control.

The reply (dated 18th April, 1934) stated that :

“The Minister has been in consultation with the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis in the matter, and is advised that the noise on the Chelsea Embankment is due mainly to the heavy volume of commercial vehicles rather than to defective vehicles, improper loading or noisy exhausts. These last named matters, however, are continually under observation by the police, and, where any infringements of the law are observed, suitable action is taken.



THE NEW CHELSEA SUSPENSION BRIDGE

from a perspective drawing at County Hall

The question of the diversion of certain classes of traffic from Chelsea Embankment to other routes has been considered, but the Minister is advised that any such diversions would be quite impracticable.

As you are doubtless aware, the question of the speed of motor vehicles is now under the consideration of Parliament in connection with the Road Traffic Bill.

With regard to the suggestion made that pedestrian crossing places should be provided in certain localities I am to inform you that an experiment is about to be made with such crossing places in various selected streets in Westminster; Holborn, St. Pancras, Poplar and Stepney.

After experience has been gained as to the merits of the experiment the Minister would be prepared to consider the question of extending the system of marked pedestrian crossings to other points in the Metropolis including the Chelsea Embankment."

The hard fact is that the creation of Chelsea Embankment gave sentence of death to the seclusion of Chelsea and has presented us in its place with a great arterial highway and all its concomitant disadvantages. But pressure may at least be brought to bear on the authorities concerned to enforce existing regulations, which are at present practically a dead letter; and the reduced speed limit in the new Road Traffic Bill will be of real value here, if, and in so far as it can be respected or enforced.

The Society has subscribed to the Anti-Noise League.

OTHER MATTERS dealt with during the year have included :

THE FOUR LADIES TABLET. The Faculty for the erection of this Memorial, of which a full account was given in last year's report, has now been granted to the Rector and Churchwardens, and Mrs. Gillick is at work on the Tablet, which is to be placed on the East Wall of the More Chapel in the Old Church.

ST. LUKE'S BURIAL GROUND. The Council warmly supported the proposal of the Rector that the northern

portion of this ground should be used as a playground for Chelsea children, for whom its close proximity to several large blocks of industrial dwellings makes its position particularly suitable. The scheme has now been adopted by the Borough Council, and a Faculty is being applied for.

Remembering also that amongst the objects for which this Society was formed was that of "amplifying the amenities of Chelsea for all classes of its people," its Council has gladly contributed to the Chelsea Children's Play Centre Fund, of which an explanatory leaflet will be found included in this Report.

TREES. The Council has heard with satisfaction that the Borough Council has for this year entrusted the pruning of trees under their charge to the Metropolitan Public Gardens Association; and trusts that this may lead to that more rational treatment of our street trees for which Lord Dickenson pleaded at this year's Annual Meeting of the London Society.

GIFTS.—The following gifts have been presented to the Society, and handed over by them to the Chelsea Public Library :

(1) Dr. Philip Norman's copy of *Beaver's "Old Chelsea"* with copious annotations by the Author and Dr. Norman (A. D. Power, Esq.).

(2) An album of photographs of "*Chelsea*," King William County, Virginia, of which one is reproduced in this Report. (Pleasant L. Reed, Esq., Richmond, Virginia.)

(3) Engravings of *William and Mary College*, Petersburg, Virginia. (D. Spotswood, Esq.)

The College is believed to have been built from designs by Sir Christopher Wren and based partly on those for the Royal Hospital at Chelsea.

(4) *Duesbury's London Account Book* reproduced in facsimile and edited by Mrs. MacAlister, and presented

by her. Duesbury was Manager at the Chelsea Porcelain Manufactory, c. 1770.

CORRESPONDENCE. Enquiries have been received and information given in regard to the following amongst various subjects :—

- (a) Sir Willoughby Gordon's House, Royal Hospital.
- (b) Sir Hans Sloane exhibits at the Natural History Museum.
- (c) Naming of Chelsea Streets.
- (d) Richard Brayne, Keeper of Lights, and Steward Royal Hospital, 1714.
- (e) Copperplates of Chelsea Bunn House, attributed to Hogarth, 1718.
- (f) Nomenclature of wall paintings at Chelsea Town Hall.
- (g) Robert or Cuthbert Tunstall, Rector of Chelsea, 1502.
- (h) Chelsea Lodge. Particulars furnished by Lady Lovelace.
- (k) Telephone Kiosks on Chelsea Embankment.
These have been repainted grey, as suggested in a Chelsea artist's letter to *The Times* quoted in our last Report.

AT THE ROYAL HOSPITAL, two interesting restorations call for record. The fourteen brass tablets which had been incongruously placed in the backs of the long oak seats in the Colonnade have been removed to the wall above, and the oaken bench backs replaced. The seemly perspective of Wren's beautiful Corridor has thus been regained, and the Memorials take their proper place with the others on its walls.

The other notable work here is the renovation of Verrio's fresco in the Great Hall, which was put in hand last winter and is not yet completed.

The work is difficult and delicate, but judging from what can already be seen, this restoration will add greatly to the beauty of the Hall.

Antonio Verrio was extensively employed by Charles II and his royal successors at Windsor and Hampton Court.

This painting, which was designed and begun by him and completed by Henry Cook, is described on its inscription as the gift of the Earl of Ranelagh; but as the payment for it to Verrio appears in the Hospital accounts, it has been suggested that the inscription might refer to the Chapel Fresco by Ricci.

Amongst the pleasant things that make this Society worth while is the fact (of which the above correspondence gives evidence) that it supplies a centre and means of information for many outside Chelsea who, either from old association or present research, desire to keep touch with its records of the past or its doings of to-day. Thus a letter just received from an old Chelsean in Michigan, enclosing a dollar bill, says :

"I would like annual report. I intended sending something of a more solid nature, but two banks closed down on me, and fear the outlook; but hope for something from the wreck. Will be 85 next October."

Another writer to our Secretary from Richmond, Virginia, asking for an engraving of Sir Thomas More's House, adds :

"I hope some day should you come to America that I will have the pleasure of entertaining you at 'Chelsea.'"

GARDEN AT BATTERSEA BRIDGE. A strip of this little enclosure has unfortunately had to be destroyed in order to improve the roadway at a dangerous corner.

MEMBERS' MEETINGS, 1933.

THE SUMMER MEETING on June 22nd at The Physic Garden and the Royal Hospital was greatly enjoyed. After inspection of the Apothecaries' old Garden and its hot-houses, under the guidance of the Curator, Mr. William Hales, a very interesting resumé of the history of the Garden was given in the Lecture Room by Dr. Dawtrey

Drewitt. Thence the party adjourned, by the kind invitation of Lady Lovelace, to Wentworth House, Swan Walk, where tea was served.

They then proceeded to the Great Hall of the Royal Hospital, where the Governor, General Sir Walter Braithwaite, gave a brief account of the institution, and particularly explained the Roll of Battle Honours just recently inscribed on the panels of the Hall. The Chapel with its trophies and the fine silver gilt Jacobean Communion Plate, the Pensioners Wards, and finally the beautiful State Room of the Governor's House were afterwards visited.

About 110 Members attended.

The Council of this Society felt that an opportunity should be given to its Members of hearing details of the scheme for providing an efficient Thames Passenger Service.

With the ever-increasing problem of street traffic congestion on the one hand, and, on the other, a magnificent but unused highway through the heart of London, a project which would provide an alternative route in comfortable, weatherproof high speed launches, at fares competing with the existing land transport, for some twenty-five million annual passengers, seemed worthy at least of serious consideration by a riverside community. The new London Passenger Transport Board, to whom the scheme was submitted last July, have thought fit to shelve the task, under the plea of other commitments, thus throwing upon private enterprise the provision of a public service which must be started in its entirety if it is to command success, and which will be difficult to finance without some initial guarantee. It is, at least, satisfactory to learn that the Government has recently appointed a Committee to consider and recommend upon the project.

People do not "strap-hang" for choice; and it is difficult to believe that, offered a regular, fast, comfortable all-weather river service as an alternative, a paying percentage of London's riparian population would not prefer the



THE CARLYLES' SITTING-ROOM, No. 5 CHEYNE ROW, 1857

water-bus, which should certainly add to the amenities of Chelsea.

THE WATERBUS LECTURE, with Lantern Illustration, was given by Mr. J. H. O. Bunge on December 13th at Crosby Hall, kindly lent by the Directors and Warden; and much interest was evoked by the detailed description of the proposed River Service. In the absence of the Mayor, through illness, Sir Walter Braithwaite took the Chair. Between 60 and 70 Members and friends were present, in spite of a most inclement evening.

To all those above mentioned who so kindly contributed to the success of these Meetings, the Council tender their warmest thanks.

THE DEATHS are recorded with much regret of the Rt. Hon. Augustine Birrell, K.C., a staunch supporter of the Society, and one of its Vice-Presidents; of Sir K. P. Vaughan-Morgan; of Mrs. Leonard Harrison; and of Mr. M. Huth Walters.

It was Mr. Birrell who moved the original resolution forming "The Chelsea Society" at the inaugural meeting held at Lady Lovelace's house in April, 1927, "to protect and foster the amenities of Chelsea." Many characteristic letters showed his interest in the work of the society, and particularly in regard to the noisy terrors of the Embankment traffic—till lately his favourite promenade. Only last year he came to the annual meeting and became one of the Vice-presidents of the society. Chelsea will miss him much. He may indeed himself be said to have become one of its amenities.

COUNCIL.—Mr. Basil Marsden Smedley, L.C.C., has been nominated as a Member of the Council.

FINANCE.—The Statement of Accounts, which is given on a later page, calls for no special comment. The expenses of the two Members' Meetings were fully met by the tickets issued, and the circulation of the Society's "Hat."

Twenty-two new Members and three Associates have been enrolled. One or two Members are good enough to send an annual donation, which is much appreciated. No Annual Subscription is at present required, but Members are asked to bring the Society to the notice of their Chelsea friends and neighbours, as its income depends chiefly on the acquisition of new Members.

Grateful acknowledgment is again due to Miss Daphne Sanger for her valuable assistance in the secretariat.

Members of the Chelsea Society are asked to draw the attention of the Council, through its Secretary, to any Chelsea happenings, either actual or projected, which may seem to call for protest or consideration.

As was emphasised at the recent meeting of The London Society, the difficulty for those interested in preserving our amenities is most often that "we wake up to find the mischief done," or at least too late for organising effective action.

Signed on behalf of the Council,

C. H. ST. J. HORNBY,
Chairman.

NOTES ON THE ILLUSTRATIONS

(1) Burgess' etching of No. 5 (now 24) Cheyne Row shows Carlyle's 'sound proof' attic, and the tree opposite the house which Mrs. Carlyle so valiantly defended.

(2) This sketch by Everard Hulton, who was Organist at St. Luke's from about 1870, and a great friend at The Rectory, shows a picturesque conglomeration of roofs at the N.E. corner of the garden, with St. Luke's Tower beyond.

(3) This fine watercolour by Girtin, recently acquired by the National Gallery, was at the British Art Exhibition this spring, under the title "White House, Chelsea." The house was actually on the Battersea riverside, a little below the bridge. The windmill in Battersea Fields, the glazed revolving mill, Battersea Bridge, and Old Chelsea Church with the bell-cupola on its tower, will be noted.

(4 & 5) The present Chelsea (or Victoria) Suspension Bridge was built in 1858, and was generally considered a good specimen of the work of its time. Particulars of the New Bridge will be found in the Report.

(6) This is reproduced from Mr. Tait's own negative of his picture, "An Interior at Chelsea," which was in the Royal Academy Exhibition of 1858, and now hangs in the room at Cheyne Row in which it was painted. Mr. Tait was a leisurely artist. Mrs. Carlyle wrote to Mrs. Russell in November 1857: "I little knew what I was committing myself to when I let him begin. For three months before I went to Scotland he came and painted twice a week; while I was in Scotland he came four times a week, and for the last six weeks he has been overstanding me like a nightmare *everyday*!! except when, please God the fog is so black that he can't see My heavens! he will make this 'work of art' last him into 1860, I begin to think. A whole day painting a tiny portfolio! Another whole day on my work box, and so on. Not the minutest object in these three rooms opening into one another but what is getting itself represented with Vandyke fidelity! And all the while the floor *won't* be flat for the life of him!"

(7) From the time of his first coming to live in Elm Park Road till the end of his life, Augustine Birrell showed



AUGUSTINE BIRRELL

keen interest in Chelsea and its doings. He and John Morley were the two speakers at the inauguration of the Carlyle's House Memorial Trust in 1895. He was an Honorary Member of the Chelsea Arts Club, and a regular attendant at its annual Dinners. He was associated with the Memorials to William de Morgan and to Henry James. He opened, with a delightful speech, that highly promising but ill-fated venture, the Chenil Galleries. On April 1st, 1927, when a meeting was convened at Wentworth House (Lord Ernle in the Chair) to consider the formation of a Society "to protect and foster the amenities of Chelsea," Mr. Birrell, in moving the Resolution which founded The Chelsea Society, said that "when people sought out places possessing particular features and amenities, they had, as purchasers or tenants, to pay for these things, which enhanced the value of property in such places; and they were thus entitled to feel that these things, for which they had paid, were in some sense theirs; and that they had every right to protect them and to protest against their destruction."

(8) "Chelsea," Virginia, was built in 1709 by Augustus Moore who claimed direct descent from Sir Thomas More of Chelsea, England, Henry VIII's Chancellor. It was from this Virginian Chelsea that Governor Spottswood and John Fontaine organised, in 1716, the expedition of the Knights of the Golden Horseshoe to the Blue Ridge Mountains. Lafayette made "Chelsea" his headquarters in 1781, on the eve of the battle of Yorktown. Mr. Pleasant L. Reed, the present owner of "Chelsea," last year sent to The Chelsea Society a collection of photographs of the House, including the one which is here reproduced. The collection has been given to our Public Library.

THE CHELSEA SOCIETY

Statement of Receipts and Expenditure for the year ended March 31st, 1934.

DR.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	CR.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Balance brought forward, April 1, 1933—							By Printing Annual Report ...	21	1	0			
At the Bank ...	75	14	0				„ „ Meeting Cards ...	0	16	9			
In Treasurer's hands ...	1	2	7				„ „ Summer Meeting ...	0	7	0			
				76	16	7	„ „ Lecture ...	1	6	6			
„ Entrance Fees—											23	11	3
New Members ...	23	3	0				„ Stationery ...				1	10	8
Associates ...	0	15	0				„ Postage ...				3	15	0
				23	18	0	„ Summer Meeting, Tea, &c. ...				6	5	0
„ Donations from Members ...				0	13	10	„ Lecture, Lantern & Gratuities ...				1	6	11
„ Sale of Reports, &c. ...				0	11	0	„ Donation, Anti-Noise League ...				1	1	0
„ Summer Meeting Tickets sold ...				9	4	0	Balance at Bank, March 31, 1934	71	12	11			
„ Waterbus Lecture—In the Hut ...				3	17	10	„ In Treasurer's hands ...	8	11	0			
„ Interest on War Stock, 3½% ...				2	12	6					80	3	11
				£117	13	9					£117	13	9

Note: The Society holds £100 3½% War Stock.

C. H. ST. J. HORNBY, *Chairman.*
REGINALD BLUNT, *Secretary.*

Examined with the Books and Vouchers and found
correct—WALTER G. A. GRIFFITH, C.B.E., M.D.



CHELSEA, VIRGINIA—built in 1709

List of Members:

LORD ABERCONWAY, P.C.
F. ADAM, Esq.
MISS KATHERINE ADAM
MRS. AGAR
R. G. ALFORD, Esq.
MRS. E. ALLEN
MISS E. A. ARMSTRONG
REV. W. GORDON ARROWSMITH

BRIGADIER GENERAL LIONEL BANON, C.B. †
HON. MAURICE BARING
JOHN HALL BARRON, Esq., M.A.
R. E. BRUCE BEAL, Esq.
DR. ALICE BENHAM, B.S.
MISS VERA BERINGER
G. J. L. BERKELEY, Esq.
THE VEN. ARCHDEACON BEVAN
MISS F. BIDDULPH
MISS HELEN BIRKENRUTH
ANTHONY BIRRELL, Esq.
MISS CONSTANCE BLAKENEY
REGINALD BLUNT, C.B.E. †
PETER R. BODKIN, Esq.
MISS MURIEL BOND
MRS. BOTTERELL
GEN. SIR WALTER BRAITHWAITE, G.C.B. †
MRS. FREDERICK BRAUND
COL. G. T. BRIERLEY *
A. CURTIS BROWN, Esq.
MRS. CURTIS BROWN
GEORGE BUCKLE, Esq.
MISS MABEL BUER, B.Sc.
MISS SYBIL BUXTON

CHARLES CARPENTER, Esq., D.Sc., C.B.E.
LADY CHALMERS
MRS. PERCY CHAPLIN
E. J. CHAPMAN, Esq. †
CAPTAIN SETON CHRISTOPHER, J.P.
MRS. CHURCH
LORD IVOR CHURCHILL
ROBERT CONINGSBY CLARKE, Esq.
CHARLES CLAY, Esq., F.S.A.
MAJOR F. CLIFFORD
MISS ETHEL COLLUM
MRS. CONINGHAM
GERALD COOPER, Esq.
MRS. M. COPPEN
MRS. MARION COX, J.P.
TRENCHARD COX, Esq.
GEORGE W. CURRIE, Esq.

CAPT. A. B. DALE
ERNEST DAVIES, Esq.
RANDALL DAVIES, Esq., F.S.A.
LADY BERTHA DAWKINS
MRS. C. G. DE BEER
COL. ERIC DILLON, C.M.G., D.S.O.
MISS MARY DINGWALL
MISS JEAN DINGWALL
HON. MILDRED A. DODSON
DR. DAWTRY DREWITT
MISS DOUGLAS
A. H. DYMOND, Esq.

COL. T. R. ELLIOTT, F.R.S., C.B.E., D.S.O.
MRS. ELLIOTT
MISS E. ELSLEY *
RT. HON. LORD ERNLE, P.C., M.V.O.
(President)

MAJOR GENERAL JASPER FARMAR,
C.B., C.M.G.
C. H. FENNELL, Esq., M.D.
MISS H. C. FIELD
H. FUTVOYE FRANCIS, Esq.
SIR JOHN FOSTER FRASER
LIEUT.-GENERAL SIR WILLIAM FURSE, K.C.

MRS. MARY GILICK
SIR GEORGE GODFREY
LADY GRAY
MISS KATHLEEN GREENE
OSCAR GRIDLEY, Esq.
DR. W. S. GRIFFITH, C.B.E.
MRS. W. GRIFFITH
RANDOLPH GROSVENOR, Esq.
H. S. H. GUINNESS, Esq.
MRS. H. GUINNESS

ADMIRAL SIR HERBERT KING-HALL,
K.C.B., C.V.O., D.S.O.
CAPTAIN ERIC HALL, M.A.
LEONARD F. HARRISON, Esq.
MRS. LEONARD HARROLD
MRS. F. S. HARTNELL
MISS HAWLEY
MRS. HALFORD HEWITT
RT. HON. SIR SAMUEL HOARE, BART., M.P.
G.B.E., C.M.G.
CAPT. V. B. HOLLAND
C. H. ST. J. HORNBY, Esq. (Chairman)

MRS. ST. J. HORNBY
 MRS. HORNIMAN
 FRANCES LADY HOSKYNs
 HON. EVELYN HUBBARD
 HON. MRS. EVELYN HUBBARD
 JAMES HYDE, ESQ.

MISS ROSE NEVILLE
 GEORGE J. NEWSON, ESQ.

LT.-COL. MERVYN O'GORMAN, C.B. †
 DOWAGER COUNTESS OF ONSLOW
 MRS. ORMOND

MISS HELEN INMAN

MRS. CHARLES KELLY
 G. KENNEDY, ESQ.
 MRS. ARTHUR KING
 MRS. KNIGHT
 CAPTAIN G. NORMAN KNIGHT

MRS. AUBREY LAWRENCE
 H. M. LEVESON, ESQ.
 MRS. E. B. LEWIS
 MRS. CONSTANCE LLOYD.
 JOHN A. LONGLEY, ESQ.
 MARY COUNTESS OF LOVELACE †
 PERCY LOVELL, ESQ. †
 MISS JESSIE LOVELL
 MRS. LUCAS
 MISS BEATRICE LUTYENS
 HON. LADY LYTTTELTON

MRS. DESMOND MACCARTHY
 MRS. MCCLINTOCK
 MISS MACNAMARA
 LT.-COL. C. L. MALONE
 MISS RUTH MANNING *
 BASIL MARSDEN SMEDLEY, ESQ., L.C.C.
 C. MARSHALL, ESQ.
 MRS. C. MARSHALL
 MISS A. B. MARSHALL
 MISS MARY MAUD
 REV. J. H. MAUDE-ROXBY, M.A.
 MRS. ARTHUR MEAD
 LADY MEIKLEJOHN
 LADY MEINERTZHAGEN
 THE LADY MELCHETT
 MABEL, LADY MELLOR
 MISS INA METHOLD
 A. A. MILNE, ESQ.
 WILLIAM MILNER, ESQ.
 MISS MOFFAT *
 MISS MONTRESSOR
 MISS GERTA M. H. MORGAN
 MISS RUTH MORTLOCK-BROWN
 MRS. JOHN MACMILLAN NEILD

MRS. WELLESLEY PAGET
 MISS ROSALIND PAGET
 MRS. R. M. PAGET *
 MICHAEL PALAIRET, ESQ., C.M.G.
 MISS DOROTHY PALMER
 MISS ST. JOHN PARTRIDGE
 C. MARESCO PEARCE, ESQ.
 MRS. MARESCO PEARCE
 LADY PEDDER
 GRAHAM PETRIE, ESQ. †
 SIR EDMUND PHIPPS, C.B. †
 DAME JESSIE WILTON PHIPPS
 MAJOR PAUL PHIPPS
 HON. DOROTHY PICKFORD †
 MRS. PICKTHALL
 SIR HENRY PIGGOTT, C.B.
 LADY PIGGOTT
 MISS LILIAS PLAYFAIR
 MISS GERTRUDE POHLMAN
 SIR SPENCER PORTAL
 SIR JOHN HORSBRUGH PORTER, BART.
 MISS LOUISE H. PORTER

MRS. RAWLINSON
 H. A. REED, ESQ., M.I.C.E.
 MRS. CARSON ROBERTS
 MRS. D. ROBERTSON
 MISS PATIENCE ROSS
 ALEXANDER C. A. ROTTMAN, ESQ.
 HON. MAUD RUSSELL
 MRS. ALYS RUSSELL

LEONARD B. L. DE SABRAN, ESQ.
 MISS E. ST. AUBYN
 MISS ETHEL SANDS
 MRS. C. P. SANGER *
 MISS DAPHNE SANGER
 W. L. SCLATER, ESQ., M.A.
 MRS. M. A. SCOTT-ELLIOT
 LADY SCOTT-MONCRIEFF
 MRS. A. M. SEDGWICK
 R. W. SHARPLES, ESQ.
 MRS. HERBERT SHELMERDINE
 HON. WILLIAM SIDNEY, J.P.
 L. PEARSALL SMITH, ESQ.

MISS G. E. SPRING RICE
 MISS CLARIBEL SPURLING
 PERCY STILL, Esq., M.I.E.E.
 MISS AGNETA STRACHAN
 MISS JANET STRATTON
 HENRY G. STRAUSS, Esq.
 MRS. STRAUSS
 MISS STUART
 MISS M. L. STUART
 MRS. SWANN
 SIR OLIVER SWANN, K.C.B.
 LADY SWANN

HON. MRS. REGINALD TALBOT *
 MRS. CHETWYND TALBOT
 MISS M. S. TALBOT
 PROFESSOR HENRY TONKS, F.R.C.S.
 MRS. TROUNCER
 PERCY TUBB, Esq.

J. K. VAUGHAN-MORGAN, Esq.

SIR GILBERT WALKER, C.S.I., F.R.S.
 LADY WALKER *
 ARTHUR G. WALKER, Esq.

MRS. HUBERT WALTER †
 L. HUTH WALTERS, Esq.
 MRS. L. D'O. WALTERS
 SIR N. WATERHOUSE, K.B.E.
 MRS. K. WATKINS
 H. WEAVER, Esq.
 MISS MARY J. WEIR
 F. J. WELCH, Esq., M.B.E., J.P.
 MRS. H. G. WHARRY
 J. H. W. WHEELER, Esq. *
 FRED. A. WHITE, Esq.
 MRS. F. A. WHITE
 MISS RUTH WHITE *
 A. G. WHITTING, Esq.
 MRS. WALTER WIGRAM
 SIR PHILIP WILBRAHAM, BART.
 MISS WILBRAHAM
 IOLO WILLIAMS, Esq.
 R. VAUGHAN WILLIAMS, Esq., D.Mus.
 MRS. SLADEN WING
 MRS. KENNETH WOOLFE-BARRY
 SIR J. EVELYN WRENCH, C.M.G., LL.D.
 W. H. WRIGHT, Esq.
 F. J. WROTTESLEY, Esq., K.C.

MISS A. ZILERI

* Associate Member.

† Member of Council.



NOTA BENE.

The Chelsea Society does not include advertisements in its Annual Report, but the Council has pleasure in giving space for the following names and addresses of local associations which are engaged in work to some extent analogous in character, as promoting the amenities of Chelsea, and which desire to enlist further support.

CHELSEA MUSIC CLUB

Concert Season, October to March, at Chelsea Town Hall.

Hon. Sec. : Sir Henry Piggott, C.B., 8, Wellington Square,
S.W.3.

CHELSEA GARDENS GUILD

To foster the cultivation of flowers in Chelsea.

Hon. Sec. : Mrs. Mitchell Innes, 5, Cadogan Street,
S.W.3.

CARLYLE'S HOUSE MEMORIAL TRUST

For the preservation of the house where Thomas and Jane Welsh Carlyle lived and died.

Hon. Sec. : Miss Daphne Sanger, 24, Cheyne Row, S.W.3.

CHELSEA CHILDREN'S PLAY CENTRE

To provide funds for the Play Centre at Ashburnham School, Upcerne Road, S.W.10.

Miss Macnamara, 24, Carlyle Square, S.W.3.

(See leaflet enclosed with this Report.)