

THE CHELSEA SOCIETY



EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1935

Price : HALF-A-CROWN

In abiding Memory of four Chelsea Women
distinguished by their learning and piety



who worshipped in this Church

MARGARET ROPER 1505-1544
Beloved daughter of Sir Thomas More

MAGDALEN HERBERT Lady Danvers
1568-1627 Mother of the Poet of The Temple

MARY ASTELL 1668-1731 Author of
The Serious Proposal to the Ladies

ELIZABETH BLACKWELL fl. 1737
Compiler of The Curious Herbal



This tablet is dedicated by University Women of
Crosby Hall & by members of The Chelsea Society

THE FOUR WOMEN TABLET

in the More Chapel of Chelsea Old Church.

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 and Mrs. Hornby

The Eighth Annual General Meeting

to which all Members & Associates are cordially invited

will take place at

SHELLEY HOUSE
CHELSEA EMBANKMENT

on

Thursday, May 23rd, at Five-thirty o'clock

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

Tea will be served at 4.45 o'clock

The following Speakers have been invited to give

Ten Minute Talks

about Chelsea amenities with which they are particularly associated

Sir Edmund Phipps, C.B.

The Old Church Repairs

Commander A. G. Denniston, C.B.E.

The Boys' Club at World's End

Major-General Delano-Osborne, C.B., C.M.G.

*What we have been doing at the
Royal Hospital*

THIS YEAR'S SUMMER MEETING

As our Members are doubtless aware, the present year brings the four hundredth anniversary of the death of Sir Thomas More; and it has accordingly been decided that the Society's Annual Summer Meeting should be arranged to honour Chelsea's greatest and greatly beloved resident.

The programme is as follows :

On Saturday, July 6th, at 3 o'clock

being the actual date of More's death, members will meet at The Moravian Close, 381, King's Road, Chelsea
(at the corner of Milman Street)

by the kind invitation of Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Gillick, where THE RT. HONBLE. LORD RUSSELL OF KILLOWEN, P.C., President of The More Society, will give an address on "Sir Thomas More, Lord Chancellor."

The company will afterwards proceed to
Chelsea Old Church

where a wreath will be laid upon the More Tomb; after which Tea will be served at

Crosby Hall, Cheyne Walk

Special interest attaches to this occasion because it will take place on ground that is throughout very closely associated with Sir Thomas More's life. THE MORAVIAN CLOSE forms the northern part of his Chelsea property, his house having occupied a site over which Beaufort Street now passes. The studios of Mr. and Mrs. Gillick stand where the Stables stood; and fragments of the original Tudor brick work still remain in the Close Garden.

At the OLD CHURCH More and his family regularly worshipped, and the great Chancellor sang in surplice in the Choir. Here he built the Chapel that bears his name and the Tomb where his first wife was buried, and where he hoped himself to lie. There is, indeed, good testimony—Weever says "it is certain," and Aubrey is equally positive—that More's body was re-interred here by his beloved daughter, Margaret Roper; and probably also that of his dear friend and fellow martyr John Fisher. And we know from her husband's Will that Margaret herself rests here also.



from the Burford Priory Portrait Group.

THE FAMILY OF SIR THOMAS MORE AT CHELSEA

With the permission of the Incumbent, the Chained Books, which include the "Vinegar" Bible and Foxe's "Book of Martyrs," will be open to inspection.

CROSBY HALL was re-erected on its present site when its demolition in Bishopsgate came to pass. It has an exceptional double interest as regards Sir Thomas More, because Crosby Place was occupied by him previously to 1523 in its original City site, and its beautiful Hall now stands on part of the garden of his later Chelsea home.

The London Society has asked to join ours on this occasion, and we welcome their participation in honouring one who may be regarded as the Founder of Chelsea.

Should the afternoon prove wet, the address will be given either in the Studio or at Crosby Hall.

TICKETS, price Two Shillings (including tea) can be obtained from:

THE SECRETARY, 12, Carlyle Mansions, Cheyne Walk,
S.W.3.;

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

Early application on the enclosed form is recommended.

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REPORT OF THE SEVENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

(abstracted from the Minutes)

The Seventh Annual General Meeting of the Society was held at Shelley House, Chelsea Embankment, on the 17th of May, 1934. There were about 45 members present.

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

Letters regretting inability to be present were reported from the Mayor of Chelsea (Colonel S. Boyle), the Duke of Atholl, Rev. W. Gordon Arrowsmith, Sir Samuel and Lady Maud Hoare, Miss St. Aubyn, Hon. Dorothy Pickford, General Farmar, and Dr. Harlow.

The Minutes of the Sixth Annual General Meeting (May 17th, 1933), were taken as read, and signed.

In moving the adoption of the Report, the Chairman referred to various items of the work of the year, including their visit at the invitation of the London County Council to inspect the plans of the new Chelsea Bridge. Allusion was made to the Society's loss in the deaths of Mr. Augustine Birrell, Mrs. Harrison, Sir Kenyon Vaughan Morgan, and Mr. Huth Walters.

General Sir William Furse seconded the adoption, and the Secretary furnished some information on certain matters to which reference had been made.

Discussion having been invited, Sir Edmund Phipps gave particulars of repairs at the Old Church; Mr. Marsden Smedley referred to the forthcoming inclusion of Chelsea by the London County Council under the Town Planning Act; and Captain Eric Hall suggested the desirability—in which the Chairman concurred—of the formation of an Amenities Committee on the Borough Council.

The adoption of the Report having been carried unanimously, "Ten Minute Talks" were given by three ladies about Chelsea amenities in which they were particularly interested, as follows:—

Flora, Mrs. Macleod of Macleod, on the work of the Chelsea Housing Improvement Society;

Miss Hilda Field, on the Chelsea Gardens Guild;
Miss Macnamara, on the Chelsea Children's Play Centre.

These brief addresses were listened to with great interest, and the speakers were thanked by the Chairman.

A vote of thanks to the latter, proposed by General Banon, brought the meeting to a close.

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:

Annual Reports. First, Second, Fifth, Sixth and Seventh (1928-34). 1/- each.

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 Story of a Flitting a Hundred Years Ago," compiled by the Secretary of The Chelsea Society to commemorate the Centenary of the Carlyles' coming to Chelsea; including an excellent portrait in photogravure of Thomas Carlyle. Issued at 2/6. Remaining copies, 9d.

THE CHELSEA SOCIETY

Founded—April, 1927

“To protect and foster the amenities of Chelsea”

*The Council of the Chelsea Society presents
the eighth Annual Report, for the
year ending March 31st, 1935*

THE principal events with which the Society has been directly associated during the past year have been the celebration of the centenary of the Carlyles' coming to Cheyne Row; the placing of a Tablet in the Old Church to the memory of four famous women buried there in unrecorded graves; and the formulation of suggestions in regard to the Town Planning of Chelsea. Prominent developments of the year in the Borough have been the erection of several huge blocks of flats, and of another large Cinema in the King's Road; the conversion to a children's playground of the northern half of St. Luke's burial ground; and the foundation of a Boy's Club at the World's End, for the western part of Chelsea.

TOWN PLANNING.

The London County Council having decided to prepare a Town Planning Scheme for those parts of London, including Chelsea, which are not at present under the Act of 1932, asked our Borough Council last summer to forward suggestions in regard to the broad outlines of the scheme; and the Committee dealing with the matter at the Town Hall in its turn invited observations from this Society on the subject. Your Council at once appointed a sub-committee for this purpose, which held several meetings in October and drafted a comprehensive series

of suggestions. These having been considered and approved by your Council were duly forwarded to the Town Clerk. Copies were also sent to all members of the Chelsea Society, to The London Society (which reproduced the Report in full in its January Journal), to the Chelsea Chamber of Commerce and Rotary Club, and, through The London Society to other Boroughs coming under the Scheme.

The Report, having been circulated to all our members, need not be further referred to here. It elicited general approval, with some criticism of individual points, both of which were welcome. A few copies are still available on application from any whom they may have failed to reach.

THE FOUR WOMEN TABLET.

This Memorial, of which some description was given in our Sixth Report, when it was first projected, was completed, fixed and unveiled in the More Chapel of the Old Church on October 27th last. A short account of the Tablet and the Service will be found later on in this report.

THE SUMMER MEETING.

This was a Carlyle centenary day, in commemoration of the coming of Thomas and Jane Welsh Carlyle to Chelsea in 1834. By the invitation of the Carlyle's House Trustees, several of whom were present to receive their guests, members assembled at 24, Cheyne Row in the afternoon of June 12th, and under the guidance of their hosts and of Mrs. Strong, their admirable caretaker, were piloted all over the famous little house and shown its various relics and treasures, including some special autographs and other exhibits lent for this occasion. From Cheyne Row the party went on to the Rectory Garden, which was entered by the gate at the top of the Row, and here tea was served on the lawn. At half-past five seats were taken near the

platform in front of the house, where Mrs. Mary Agnes Hamilton delivered a charming address on "Thomas and Jane." Mr. Blunt (who took the chair) gave some early recollections of Rectory associations with the Carlyles, and Sir James Crichton Browne thanked Mrs. Hamilton in appreciative terms. The attendance was large, the weather perfect, and the afternoon was greatly enjoyed. The thanks of the Council are due to the Trustees of Carlyle's House and to the Rector for their generosity as the Society's hosts on a very memorable occasion.

An illustrated brochure entitled 'The Story of a Flitting,' giving a detailed record of the Carlyle's exodus to Chelsea a hundred years ago, was compiled for the occasion, and the whole proceeds of its sale have been given to the Carlyle's House Endowment Fund.

TREES.

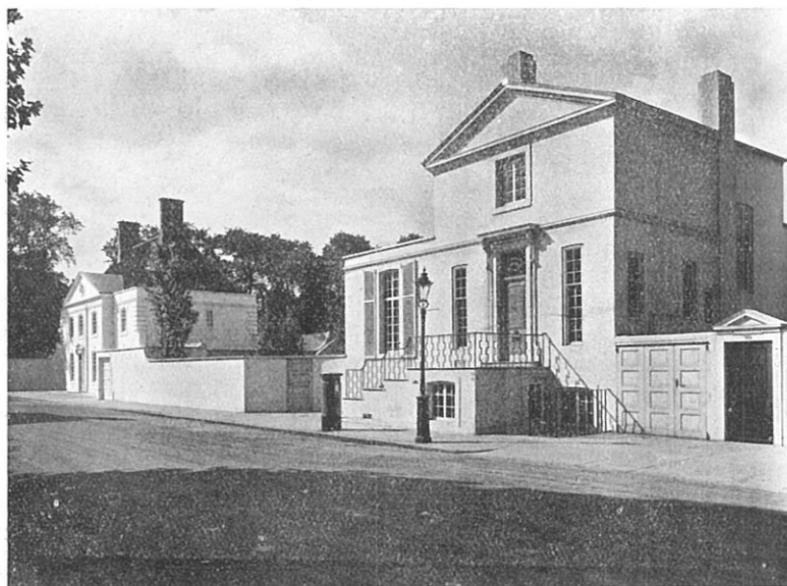
The Borough Surveyor last September addressed to the Works Committee of his Council a lengthy and interesting report on "Street Trees in Chelsea," dealing in detail with the characteristics of the various trees recommended by authorities for urban planting; a most welcome sign of intelligent concern. As a result, experiment is being made in Whitehead's Grove and Norman Street, with new plantings of small flowering trees such as Whitebeam and Crab-apple.

Unprotected flowering shrubs and trees having recently been installed with great success and much appreciation in Eastern Avenue, it is to be hoped that similar courage may be equally respected in Chelsea.

With the help of the Chelsea Gardens Guild, the Rector has had the happy inspiration of planting the semi-circular grass plot in front of St. Luke's Church with flowering shrubs and crocuses, &c., whilst a row of catalpa trees on the south side of the church, placed there in memory of



THE PAVED GARDEN



THE EAST FRONT

Nos. 40 & 41, TRAFALGAR SQUARE

(Reproduced by permission from "Country Life")

a Chelsea artist who died last May, holds promise of future bloom and beauty.

On the Embankment, eight plane trees have been removed this spring, "owing to their condition, and to prevent interference with light and air to premises;" and over one hundred have been pruned. It is satisfactory to record that this work has been properly and expertly done, and your Council note with pleasure the following report from the Works Committee :

The trees form part of an avenue which runs for half-a-mile in a straight line along Chelsea Embankment, contributing to the amenities of the Embankment as a Chelsea promenade and open space, and is one of the finest avenues in London.

The trees are planted some 25 ft. apart [actually 30 ft.] but if the planting were being done afresh, it would be in accordance with the usual road-planting practice for trees to be planted from 50 to 60 feet apart. A distance between trees of 50 feet would permit a better furnishing of the lateral foliage of the larger trees, and would be achieved by the removal of every alternate tree. The growth of the trees is greater in some parts of the avenue than in others. The trees on the south side of the Embankment, which are under the jurisdiction of the London County Council, are not so sheltered and are smaller. The trees are largest where they have received the most shelter from houses, which is the case with regard to the trees which we consider should be removed.

We are anxious to preserve the symmetry of the avenue of trees along the Embankment, and we understand that if the work indicated in the first paragraph was carried out, it would not be unduly disturbed.

Here is indeed a new and welcome note from our authorities.

On the other hand it has to be recorded with great regret that three fine plane trees in Cheyne Gardens, which were respited four years ago (as explained in our 1930 report) at the instance of this Society and of the adjoining residents, have this spring been ruthlessly and inexpertly

“lopped,” to their painful and permanent disfigurement, and without any real necessity, by the Landlord’s agents.

EMBANKMENT LIGHTING.

The system of lighting by suspended central gas lamps was adopted last year on Chelsea Embankment. The illumination is tolerably good, though somewhat patchy; but the standards erected to carry the cross-rigging are of the poorest description, utterly lacking in proportion or design. Nor does due consideration appear to have been given to their placing; for one was actually fixed against the centre of the Old Church wall, where, apart from its disfigurement of a beautiful corner, it acted as an invitation to the heavy Embankment traffic to use the inner road between the gardens and the houses. In response to a joint protest from this and from The London Society this “hideous lamp standard,” as it was described in the local press, was subsequently removed.

STREET NAMES.

Your Council has been courteously consulted on two or three occasions during the year in regard to the renaming of local streets; it having been proposed that Upper Manor Street should become “Farrier Street” and that Green Street should have a fresh title and be rechristened “Howth Street.” A list of Chelsea names at present unrecorded in street nomenclature was submitted, but it did not appear that any sufficient reason existed for changing the present names, and in this view the Borough Council concurred. Enquiries have also been received and replied to in regard to the naming of two of the new large blocks of Chelsea flats recently in course of erection; but it seems a pity that in a place so rich in famous names as Chelsea, titles such as “Cranmer,” “Chiltern,” “Crofton,” “Lampard,” “Harrogate,” &c., should be resorted to, which have no local significance or association.

BATTERSEA FUMES.

Complaints loud and bitter reached your Secretary during last year of obnoxious smells brought by south-west winds from Battersea. So indignant indeed were some of our correspondents (several, be it noted, non-members) as almost to imply that the Society was responsible for these evil odours. After repeated representations had been made to the Medical Officers, Borough and London County officials, the Ministry of Health, and the House of Commons, and other authorities, it appeared to be established that the fumes came from one of the chimneys of the Morgan Crucible Company's works; and it must be admitted that when the nuisance was brought home to them, the Company at once took steps to amend matters. An electrical precipitation plant costing over £2,000, was installed at their works last autumn, which the independent experts who inspected it reported as likely to be efficient, and which, indeed, appeared for a while to improve matters. During the past two or three months, however, complaints have again been rife whenever the wind veered to the appropriate direction. A letter written this March directly to the Crucible Company on behalf of your Council gave particulars of recent date when the fumes had been notified to our Secretary, and called special attention to the very low elevation of the offending chimney. The firm sent a courteous reply in which, after detailing the steps already taken to mitigate the nuisance they stated that an order has now been placed for the erection of a new 250 feet chimney, with instructions that the work was to be completed with all possible speed.

This is so far satisfactory news, and may result in the sufficient dispersion of the effluent gases not previously arrested. In any case the Company appear now to be doing what they can to improve matters, and must be allowed the necessary time to carry out the work and to judge of its results, before further action is taken.

BATTERSEA AND FULHAM POWER STATIONS.

This question of air pollution is of such vital importance to the amenities of Chelsea that no excuse is needed for reverting once more to the subject of the great Power Stations, concerning which this Society took a leading part from its first inception in 1927.

BATTERSEA.—Sanction has just recently been given to the installation of additional boiler power, involving a large further consumption of coal, at this station. Some extracts from the report of the Committee presided over by the Government chemist may be of interest to our members :

The committee, the report states, has followed the installation and performance of the plant erected by the London Power Company at Battersea for the purpose of eliminating sulphur fumes from the products of combustion of coal used for raising steam at the station. The process consists essentially of a treatment of the gases by water in the presence of metallic iron in the horizontal flues, followed by water sprays and a treatment with an alkaline liquor—most recently a suspension of chalk—in the vertical flues.

With some variations in the nature of the final alkaline washing this plant has been working for over six months, and the committee inspected it in action at the beginning of this year.

The committee has been impressed, the report continues, by the endeavour and energy displayed by the London Power Company to reduce the quantity of sulphur gases escaping into the air to a low value. This value is at present about 0.03 grain of sulphur as sulphurous anhydride a cubic foot. As to the present concentration of sulphur gases in the flue gases, the committee is of the opinion that the company adopted "the best known means of preventing, so far as reasonably practicable, the evolution of oxides of sulphur."

It is understood that a request may be made for the installation of three boilers to complete the immediate requirement of the company, and the committee would raise no objection, subject to the same conditions of working as apply to the existing boilers.

The committee has considered the consequences of this evolution of sulphur gases from many points of view, and agrees that it can be permitted in the present state of technical possibilities.

While impressed with the energy exhibited and success obtained by the London Power Company in treating the enormous volume of gases (such as 20,000,000 cubic feet an hour from one chimney), and considering their performance a notable and pioneering achievement in chemical engineering the committee recommends that, before the completion of the station be sanctioned, it would be well to have regard to developments in technical knowledge on the subject of the removal of sulphur gases from flue gases that may in the meantime have evolved. This is recommended only because the problem is a new one, and further improvement in the processes may reasonably be anticipated.

The committee feels that, on account of the thorough washing which the gases undergo, there is no cause to fear the deposition of solid matter from the chimneys. Visually, the white cloud of steam which issues soon dissipates, leaving nothing but a faint greyness, or not even this, and attempts to determine the solid matter in the washed chimney gases have so far failed to give any measurable quantity.

Whilst duly praising the progress achieved, it will be observed that a note of caution is still sounded in the recommendations of this expert Committee.

FULHAM.—As has already been reported by your Council, an Electric Super-Power Station of capacity at least as great as that at Battersea is now in course of erection at Townmead Road, Fulham; and the grave apprehension with which both Chelsea and Westminster view this further huge coal consumption in their neighbourhood will be seen from the following report of a special Power Station Committee issued last October :

The City of Westminster Council at its meeting on October 16 had before it particulars of a proposal of the Fulham Borough Council for the extension of its electricity power station at Townmead Road, Fulham. The City Council understands that at the new station



THE GATEWAYS, WHITEHEAD'S GROVE.

there will be two boiler houses, each having two chimneys 300 ft. high 'to ensure a proper carrying away and dispersion of the boiler gases'; that it is estimated that the completed station will consume about 2,250 tons of coal per day; and that on the assumption that the coal would have an ash content of 12 per cent., it is estimated that the quantity of ashes to be dealt with would be about 275 tons per day for the completed station.

The Fulham Borough Council approved the plans and estimates for the proposed new station on October 1 last, and decided to make application to the Electricity Commissioners for their consent thereto under Section 11 of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1919, and to the Commissioners of Works for their approval under Section 19 of the London Electricity (Supply) Act, 1908.

The Minister of Transport and the Commissioners of Works have been informed that the City Council is gravely apprehensive of the injurious effect on the health and property of the City which may follow the erection of large electricity power stations in close proximity to the City and they have been asked to reconsider the policy of allowing the erection or extension of electricity power stations in such positions. I am directed to ask that your Council will support the representations thus made.

On October 7, 1929, the Electricity Commissioners informed the Council that no inquiry would be held by the Commissioners into the proposed extension of the Fulham Power Station until the City Council had had an opportunity of considering the report of the chemists of the London Power Company on their experiments for preventing the emission of sulphur fumes from power stations, and on July 4, 1930, the Commissioners stated that the undertaking contained in their letter of October 7, 1929, held good. The Electricity Commissioners have been requested to give the City Council notice of the time and place of any public inquiry into the proposed extension of the station and to allow the City Council to appear at such inquiry.

We are in complete accord with the views expressed in the foregoing communication (stated the committee), and we recommend:—(a) That the

Electricity Commissioners be requested to give the Council notice of the time and place of any public inquiry into the proposed extension of the electricity power station at Townmead Road, Fulham, and to allow the Council to appear at such inquiry. (b) That the Minister of Transport and the Commissioners of Works be informed that the Council are gravely apprehensive of the injurious effect on the health and property of the borough which may follow the erection of large electricity power stations in close proximity to Chelsea, and that they be asked to reconsider the policy of allowing the erection or extension of electricity power stations in such positions.

CHELSEA BRIDGE.

The architect's sketch and some particulars of the new Chelsea Bridge were given in our last Report, and it will be remembered that the London County Council adopted the suggestion made by this Society that the Royal Fine Art Commission should be brought into consultation with regard to its design. The following further particulars were given in *The Times* last September :

The Royal Fine Art Commission were consulted by the Improvements Committee of the L.C.C., and in February last it was announced that general agreement had been reached upon a design for a suspension bridge of steel construction, with river piers and abutments of granite.

The bridge, stated the committee in its report, would have a total span of approximately 700ft. There would be a central span over the navigable water and two shore spans, the length of the central span being approximately 332 ft. clear, and that of each shore span about 163 ft. clear. The two footways would be each 12ft. wide at the central span, and about 14ft. wide at the shore spans. In the preparation of the design the lightness and simplicity of the steelwork generally had been considered, and all architectural features not required for structural reasons had been avoided.

Certain outstanding points of detail remained for consideration, such as the design of lamps and iron balustrading and the colour of the steelwork. The

commission had intimated their willingness to offer advice on these points later if desired. The Improvements Committee proposed to take advantage of this offer and placed upon record its appreciation of the valuable advice given by the commission on the design of the bridge.

The existing bridge was closed to road traffic at the end of February, and is now in course of demolition. The new bridge, which will cost £480,000 will take about three years to complete.

OTHER MATTERS under discussion during the past year included the following :

HANS PLACE.—Your Council warmly supported the protest of the Borough Council against the increased use of Hans Place, proposed to be sanctioned by the police, as a public parking station. It is, in their view, unreasonable that householders who have paid high rentals for quiet and secluded homes should be subjected to the constant noise, fumes and disturbance of a large car park opposite their doors.

CHEYNE WALK AND EMBANKMENT TRAFFIC.—A proposal to make Cheyne Walk between Church Street and Manor Street a "One Way Traffic" street has been put forward by the Ministry of Transport. The problem here is by no means a simple one, but the solution proposed would in some ways aggravate the existing difficulties and dangers, and would certainly meet with strenuous opposition from adjoining householders.

THE OLD CHURCH.—Good work has been done here during the year in the cleaning and repolishing of monuments in the Lawrence Chapel and elsewhere; and further repair work only awaits funds. If these can be provided it is hoped in this More Centenary year to gild the lettering of the long inscription on the More Tomb in the chancel, which would be in accordance with precedent, and would render more legible the characteristic Epitaph which Sir Thomas himself composed.

THE ROYAL HOSPITAL.—A further excellent piece of work has also recently been carried out here in cleaning, recutting and colouring the lettering on a number of tombs and gravestones in the Cemetery, which had become almost illegible.

A new organ, the work of the John Compton Company, has been placed in the Chapel, and special care has been taken that all of its parts visible from the Chapel floor are enclosed in the original organ case.

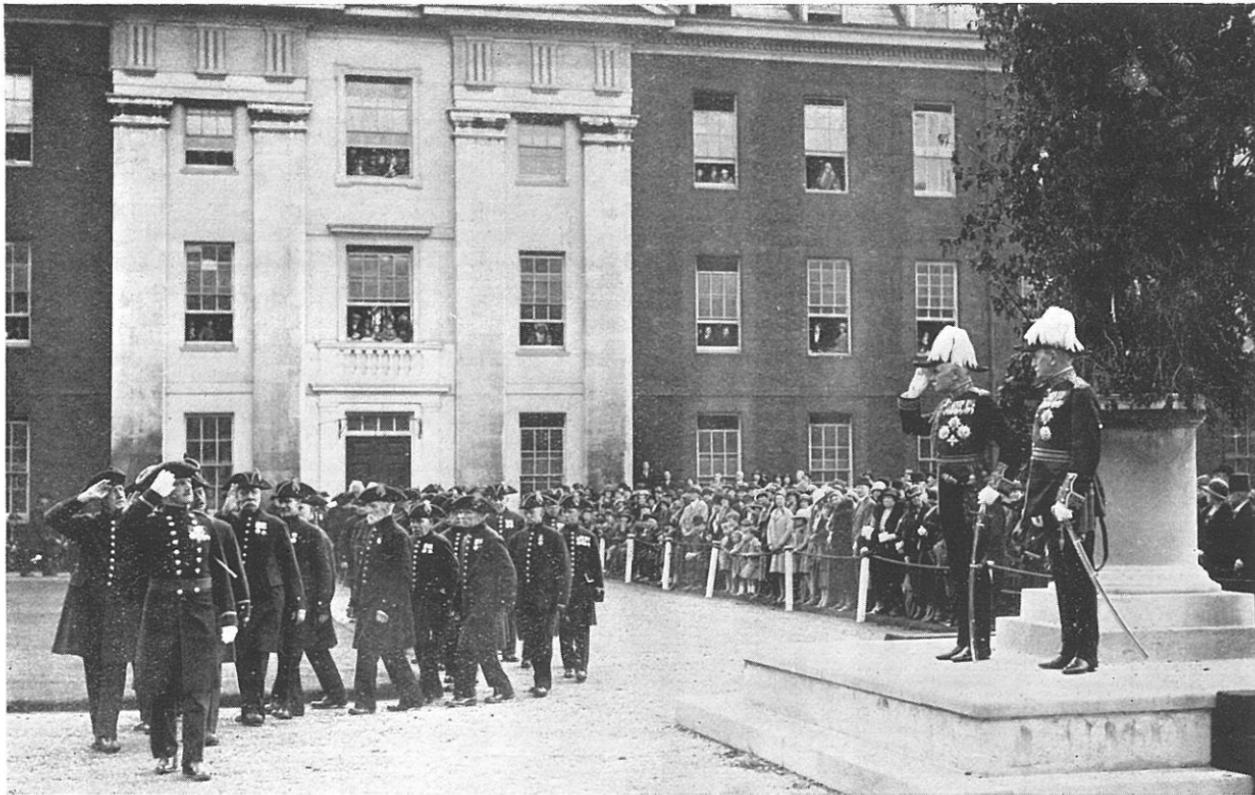
The earlier names of the Gates and Courts of the Hospital have been restored to them. East Gate is now London Gate, West Gate is Chelsea Gate, the East Court is Light Horse Court, the West Court, Infirmary Court, and the Centre Court is Figure Court.

The restoration of the Verrio Fresco in the Great Hall, which was described in last year's Report, has since been completed, and the great painting can now be seen in its original beauty. The work has been most carefully carried out by three experts from the Office of Works, and has occupied fourteen months.

The charming bowling green made two years ago for the Pensioners' use has also been properly banked, and provides an appropriate setting for many hard fought contests.

CHEYNE WALK GARDENS.—Some perturbation was caused during the year by reports that a scheme was under consideration for buildings at the rear and upon the gardens of the Cheyne Walk houses east of Oakley Street. The Society has however been informed that a further nineteen years lease has recently been granted for one of the most interesting and historic of these gardens, forming part of Henry VIII's Manor House estate, and it appears therefore that no such project is in contemplation.

TURNER'S HOUSE.—It is stated that a plan is being discussed for the purchase of No. 118 Cheyne Walk, where J. M. Turner spent the last years of his life, for convers-



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FOUNDER'S DAY PARADE AT CHELSEA HOSPITAL.

ion into an artists' club. Whether there is room for a second Arts Club in Chelsea is an open question; but in any case it is to be hoped that no essential alteration of this historic little house would be allowed.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Enquiries have been received and information given during the year with regard to diverse Chelsea matters, including the following :

The Old Swan Inn, and Pepys.

Rev. Adam Littleton, Rector.

"The Glaciarium" behind the Old Clock House.

Henry Sampson Woodfalls's grave.

Eckhardt's and Triquet's stained paper and silk factories.

Wellington Square amenities.

Richard Robert Graham, Apothecary to the Royal Hospital.

Lead Figures of British Grenadiers from the Chelsea Bun House.

Dwelling places of famous Chelsea residents.

[A fairly comprehensive register of these is available at the Chelsea Public Library.]

Jane Seymour's reputed marriage to Henry VIII at Chelsea.

Chelsea Postal facilities.

Rodin Memorial to Whistler.

THE DEATHS are recorded with much regret of the Hon. Evelyn Hubbard, and of Captain Seton Christopher, both of whom had been valued members of the Society since its foundation in 1927; also of Mr. George Buckle and Dame Jessie Wilton Phipps.

SECRETARIAT.—The thanks of the Council are again tendered to Miss Daphne Sanger for much valued help as Assistant Secretary during the year.

ILLUSTRATIONS.

During the past few years our Reports have been largely illustrated from the records of Chelsea's more picturesque past; and it has been suggested that some of its buildings of today should be represented. With the exception of Sir Edwyn Lutyens' house at 42 Cheyne Walk, which was fully described in our 1933 Report, there has been little recent building in Chelsea which was architecturally remarkable, except for inordinate size. But it is with much pleasure that we reproduce this year photographs of two new buildings of a different order of merit. The first of these, No. 41, Trafalgar Square, shows the east and west fronts of one of a couple of white stucco-finished houses designed by Mr. Oliver Hill respectively for Freda Lady Forres and for Lord Vernon, on the site of Katharine Lodge. Both houses conform more or less to "the Georgian idiom," and are admirably balanced, Lord Vernon's (the further one in the east front view) being the larger, and that of Lady Forres planned for an artist and collector.

The other example illustrated shows a group of houses designed by Messrs. Wills and Kaula between Whitehead's Grove and Norman Street, which, though cruelly overshadowed by the gigantic block of flats across the road, have individual and attractive features, and may be welcomed at a time when Chelsea is being too heavily loaded with these huge and hideous caravanseries.

In the large portrait group, "The Family of Sir Thomas More," which was in the possession of the Lenthall family at Burford Priory, Oxon, till 1828, and was purchased and replaced there in 1926 by the late Mr. Emslie Horniman (an original Member of the Council of this Society), "Holbein's composition, as known to us from his sketch at Basle, has been considerably modified, but the whole undoubtedly takes rank as one of the most imposing portrait groups painted in England during the sixteenth century." The figures from left to right are those of Sir John More (father), Anne Cresacre (wife of John More), Sir Thomas

More, John More (son), Cecilia Heron, Elizabeth Dancey and Margaret Roper (daughters). The other four figures to the right, which were introduced later, represent More's grandson and his wife, and their two sons. Alice Middleton, Sir Thomas' second wife, Margaret Giggs, and Patterson the jester are omitted in this picture, of which the date is 1593.

The March Past of the In-Pensioners at the Founder's Day Parade illustrates the interesting "Oakapple Day" ceremony which takes place annually on May 29th at Chelsea Hospital. On this occasion Field Marshal Sir George Milne, G.C.B., took the salute, and General Sir Walter Braithwaite, the Governor, stands beside him.

The Drummers at the Parade (1933) were Corporal H. Watts, 71, and Private F. Frye, 74.

FINANCE.

As will be seen from the Statement of Accounts, the expenditure for the year has been considerably in excess of that for previous years. Apart from the grants given by the Society to special local objects, which amounted to nearly £35, the printing account shows a large increase, which is explained by the fact that it covers the issue of the Town Planning report, the reprinting of the Society's Prospectus, and the production of the Carlyle Centenary illustrated brochure. It will be noticed, however, from the other side of the account that the latter has already paid its cost.

An effort to enlarge the membership of the Society was made last autumn, when about 500 copies of the new Prospectus were posted to a carefully compiled list of Chelsea residents. The result was by no means satisfactory, less than twenty responses being received. It would seem that those for whom the amenities of the place in which they live have any real interest must be accounted a select few. But circulars, however discriminatingly addressed, are easily neglected, and most of the Society's

new members—upon whose modest entrance fees, since there is no annual subscription, its livelihood chiefly depends,—are enrolled through the good offices of existing members, who are asked to bring its work to the notice of their friends and neighbours as opportunity arises; or to send the names and addresses of likely candidates to the Secretary, who will be glad to forward prospectuses and information.

The present membership is 260. It ought to be doubled.

Members of the Chelsea Society are also again 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 last year, 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.

THE FOUR WOMEN TABLET.

This Memorial, to which reference was made in our Sixth Annual Report, was unveiled in the Old Church on the afternoon of October 27th, 1934.

A special Form of Dedication Service was arranged and printed for the occasion, including the Lesson from the Wisdom of Solomon and part of the "Thanksgiving for English Saints" from the Cambridge Offices and Orisons. Organ music by Orlando Gibbons and Purcell was played before and after the service. At the invitation of Mrs. Alys Russell, representing the graduates of Crosby Hall and the Chelsea Society, the Rector of Chelsea dedicated the Memorial.

The Tablet, which is of marble, is of a deep cream colour which harmonises with the existing monuments in the church. The head of Margaret Roper in prayer is placed between the words "Who worshipped in this church." She wears the simple headdress of everyday life often depicted in Holbein's drawings.

The four posies beneath the inscription are emblematic : daisies for Margaret Roper, primroses for Magdalen Herbert, recalling Donne's poem "The Primrose," which was addressed to her; snowdrops for the virginal Mary Astell and crocuses for Elizabeth Blackwell the herbalist.

The lettering is coloured a deep brown and the head and the posies are relieved with touches of gold.

The Tablet, which measures three feet one inch by two feet one inch, has been designed and executed by Mrs. Mary Gillick, and is the gift of the Graduates of Crosby Hall, and of The Chelsea Society.

The More Chapel on the eastern wall of which the Tablet is placed, was rebuilt, in part at least, by Sir Thomas More in 1528, though its chancel arch is of much earlier date. The two carved capitals of the responds, which represent symbols of More's offices in Church and State, are believed to have been designed for him by

Holbein during one of his visits to Chelsea. More himself served at the altar and in the choir here.

The following brief record of Dr. Maude Royden's address is taken from the "News Sheet of the British Federation of University Women."

In her address on the four women, Dr. Maude Royden said that it was a curious coincidence that the thought of violence, of ungainliness, and of lack of charm had been associated with those who began the struggle to procure for women the right to do more than was expected of their sex. The actions of these four women had that grace and charm which made greatness so infinitely more attractive. Charm seemed to cling around Margaret Roper and her father, Sir Thomas More, and one could not help wondering whether the course of the Reformation might not have been a little more gracious if it had followed the character of men like Colet, Erasmus, and More rather than of Cranmer and Luther.

Magdalen Herbert was the friend of Donne, whose prose haunted the memory like great and tragic music. He and many others gathered at her house in Chelsea. Chelsea had been a place blessed with many artists, but this must have been one of the loveliest moments in Chelsea's life. Magdalen Herbert was the inspirer of many of those who met at her home, and seemed to have had the power of making people happy. Conversation was not an art easily practised by English people, who generally either listened or conducted a monologue. One had the impression, however, that in Magdalen Herbert's circle it was possible for everyone to speak with ease, and that ease flowed from her.

Of Mary Astell, who died at Chelsea in 1731, Dr. Royden said that she was, more directly than the other two women, a pioneer. She was the author of that oddly entitled book, "A Serious Proposal to the Ladies." She linked together the ideas of education and emancipation, and proposed to found a college where women might fit themselves for the emancipation which they desired.

Elizabeth Blackwell completed in 1737 her "Curious Herbal," in which she described 500 plants in the Chelsea Physic Garden opposite which she lived. It



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THE ROYAL HOSPITAL DRUMMERS.

was not always realized, Dr. Royden said, that medicine used to be largely in the hands of women in and before the Middle Ages. Then for a time this tradition died, and when women tried to re-establish it by claiming the right to qualify as doctors their claim was met by a violence of fury which surpassed perhaps the worst moments of the suffragist campaign. That seemed strange to-day, for surely the art of healing might be expected to be found in the hands of the sex which bore the burden of bringing life into the world.

The Service was conducted by the Rev. R. Sadleir, Incumbent of the Old Church. There was a large congregation, and the Tablet, of which a photograph is reproduced as frontispiece, was greatly admired.

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