

THE CHELSEA SOCIETY



SIXTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1943

Price: HALF-A-CROWN



THE COLONNADE OF THE ROYAL HOSPITAL

Inscription on the Frieze:

IN SUBSIDIUM ET LEVAMEN, EMERITORUM
 SENIO. BELLOQUE FRACTURUM, CONDIDIT
 CAROLUS SECUNDUS, AUXIT JACOBUS
 SECUNDUS, PERFECERE GULIELMUS ET
 MARIA REX ET REGINA.—MDCXCII.

"AMENITY." Tell us, whose is it, and what?

Do we own, or inherit, or choose it?

It's something you often don't know that you've got

Till you lose it!

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THE CHELSEA SOCIETY

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

President:

Vice-Presidents:

GENERAL SIR WALTER BRAITHWAITE, G.C.B.

GENERAL SIR HARRY KNOX, K.C.B., D.S.O.

Council:

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

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

MR. REGINALD BLUNT, C.B.E.

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

MR. WALTER GODFREY, F.S.A., F.R.I.B.A.

HON. BRYAN W. GUINNESS

MR. PERCY LOVELL, F.S.A. (London Society)

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

HON. ALBERT NAPIER, C.B.

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

SIR EDMUND B. PHIPPS, C.B.

HON. DOROTHY PICKFORD, J.P.

MR. RICHARD STEWART-JONES (Georgian Group)

MR. GRAHAME B. TUBBS, A.R.I.B.A. (Chelsea Arts Club)

Hon. Secretary and Treasurer:

REGINALD BLUNT, 60, Glebe Place, Chelsea, S.W.3.

Assistant Honorary Secretary:

MISS DAPHNE SANGER

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.

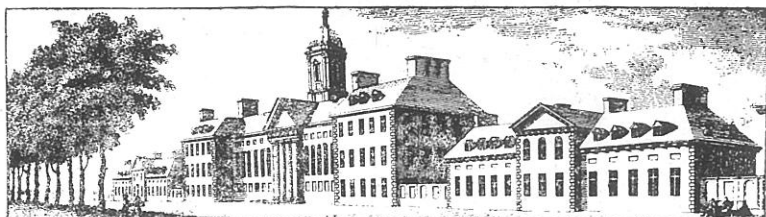
There is no annual subscription to the Society, but members must, on election, pay a minimum subscription of £1. Should further funds be needed to carry on the work of the Society, it is proposed to raise them from time to time by voluntary subscriptions amongst the members and others.

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.



North Front of Chelsea Hospital.

THE CHELSEA SOCIETY

Founded—April, 1927

“To protect and foster the amenities of Chelsea”

Sixteenth Annual Report

IN issuing their Sixteenth Annual, and fourth war-time Report, the Council of the Chelsea Society is glad to affirm that, in spite of inactivity and the cessation of meetings and visits entailed by the dispersal and preoccupations of its members, the vitality of the Society survives. New supporters have been enrolled during the year, old members have sent donations to its funds in unexpected numbers, and many have written in sympathy and enquiry about Chelsea's war damage.

CIVIC SOCIETIES AND TOWN PLANNING.

Ours was amongst the first of the Civic Societies in London, and our “Suggestions for a Town Planning Scheme for Chelsea” was compiled in 1934, and broadly adopted and reprinted by our Borough Council in the following year.

During the next few years, gathering urgency from the increasing pace of vandal destruction, quite a number of such societies formed themselves in the larger towns, to protect

their amenities and guide developments; and in 1939 it became clear that, having so much in common in their aims and problems, some centre of cohesion was natural and inevitable. A Central Council of Civic Societies was accordingly organised under the Chairmanship of Lord Esher, not with the object of forming any new society, but "to establish a central address with a Chairman and Hon. Secretary where information may be obtained, and meetings can be held between representatives of constituent Societies to discuss problems of mutual interest to those concerned with the amenities of the larger centres of population".

Our Council welcomes the creation of such a central consultative body, to whom they are already indebted for a most interesting and provocative address on town planning, delivered last October by Mr. Henry Strauss, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Town and Country Planning, and long a member of this Society.

Apart from any fresh developments which may be contemplated, it is obvious, as regards Chelsea, that the Cheyne Walk and Embankment area between the Cheyne Hospital for Children and Crosby Hall, including the lower part of Old Church Street will present a major problem, and a great opportunity, concerning which it may be wise to say no more at present than that any scheme must surely await, and be to some extent conditioned by, the ultimate decision as to the future of Chelsea Old Church.

Further west, in regard to the congested Lots Road area, Major Thesiger, our Deputy Mayor, has wisely impressed on our Borough Council the urgency of post-war planning, when several thousands of evacuees may be returning to Chelsea, many of them to non-existent homes. The alternative to rebuilding on the existing lay-out here would presumably be a clearance of the area for the erection of blocks of flats more or less on the lines of those in Chelsea Manor Street, with space between them for children's playgrounds and gardens; and it can hardly be doubted that this solution will be preferred to any revival of the obsolete methods of eighty years ago.

THE OLD CHURCH.

Under the Diocesan Re-organisation Committee Measure, 1941, orders are to be made deferring restoration of certain churches for a period not exceeding five years, unless the order shall be revoked or the Lord Bishop consent to restoration. Chelsea Old Church has been designated as one for which an order deferring restoration should be made. This, however, does not mean that the Church will not ultimately be restored, but that it is considered that restoration cannot be undertaken within the five years except with the consent of the Bishop.

The Old Church congregation is a living corporate entity; it holds its regular services and meetings in the Cheyne Hospital, adjoining the site of the Church; it allocates and distributes its offertories, and it looks forward with steadfast desire to the rebuilding of its place of worship. The intention of the Diocesan Committee's order is not stated. It may be to test the strength and solidarity of the desire for reconstruction, or it may be to give priority to other schemes. In



"THE UPPER ROOM" AT CHEYNE HOSPITAL

either case it is difficult to understand why so long a moratorium, irrespective of the duration of the war, should be enforced not merely upon rebuilding, but upon concrete plans toward that end.

The Council of this Society fully realises that the Diocesan Committee must take a wider than parochial view, and that questions of priority, of finance, and of alternative accommodation must be taken into their consideration. On the other hand, it seems to them that some explanation of the five years' postponement might reasonably be given; and that it would hardly be equitable that a Committee sitting *in camera* should reach a vital decision without the congregation primarily concerned being given full opportunity to express their view.

Nor must it be forgotten that there is another and larger aspect of this matter which demands due consideration. Chelsea Old Church was a National Monument, and commended as such by the Royal Commission to the special protection of the King. In its eight centuries record of continuous worship, in its rich memorials of famous people, three quarters of which have been saved either unharmed or in reparable state, above all in its Chapel built by Sir Thomas More, which has happily and miraculously survived the general wreckage, Chelsea's Old Church had features and has claims that are in many respects unique, claims that belong not to its congregation alone, nor to Chelsea or to London alone, but are the heritage of the whole country, and as such are referable to a wider than diocesan tribunal. In this connection the Council would refer members to the admirable leading article in *The Times* of 12th May last year, which is reprinted as an Appendix to this Report.

THE ROYAL HOSPITAL.

The past year was one of special commemoration at the Royal Hospital, marking the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the first admission of its In-Pensioners in 1692, and

its Governor, General Sir Harry Knox, has again kindly sent his report on events.

The Council desires to express its regret that this will be the last of these interesting records from his pen. His retirement this autumn is a real loss to the amenities of Chelsea, where his work and that of Lady Knox have by no means been confined to the precincts of Chelsea Hospital.

"Fortunately 1942 was a peaceful year in comparison with its predecessor; enemy action caused no further damage to the Royal Hospital.

The outstanding event of the year was the Inspection by His Majesty The King, accompanied by Her Majesty The Queen, on the 29th May. In-Pensioners were admitted to the Royal Hospital in 1692 and Their Majesties, in recognition of our 250th Anniversary, honoured the In-Pensioners by their visit. Owing to the fact that Their Majesties' movements have to be kept secret, any considerable issue of invitations was impossible; however, many friends assembled to watch the ceremony in Figure Court; there was a large gathering of our Commissioners, The Mayor and Mayoress of Chelsea, and many Chelsea war workers and the Civil Defence Services were well represented. There was also a contingent of widows from The Royal Cambridge Home for Soldiers' Widows.

"Before the Parade began a bouquet was presented to The Queen by In-Pensioner McIlheron, late of The Queen's Bays, on behalf of the Royal Hospital. The usual ceremonial was observed, and the Band of Scots Guards played the March Past. The King then spoke as follows:--

"It gives the Queen and myself great pleasure to visit you on this 250th Anniversary of the opening of the Royal Hospital, and I congratulate you on your fine soldierly appearance on parade.

"Your Hospital has suffered from enemy action but you are still proudly in occupation of these beautiful buildings, and your gallant behaviour under war conditions is worthy of the grand traditions of your Regiments and of the standard which has been set by your predecessors in this Hospital.

"You have helped in the war effort in every way which you have found possible, and by your good con-



Topical Press

IN-PENSIONER McILHERON PRESENTS A BOUQUET TO THE QUEEN
FOUNDER'S DAY, MAY 29th, 1942

duct and cheery bearing in the streets of London you have set a fine example to all.

"I wish you all God speed and many peaceful years when victory is won."

The Governor replied as follows:—

"Your Majesties. On behalf of the In-Pensioners I thank Your Majesty for your gracious speech. That our small efforts during the war should receive your approval is to old soldiers the highest reward we could receive. It will inspire us all to a greater effort.

"For two hundred and fifty years this Royal Hospital, thanks to the foresight and generosity of its Royal Founders, has been the home of old soldiers of the British Army; soldiers who, in the words of the Inscription on our Colonnade, have deserved well of their country after long years of service, and who have been broken down in war.

"Old soldiers have certain well defined characteristics, so naturally there has been a strong likeness between succeeding generations of In-Pensioners. Reliability and great love of their Regiments are almost universal. In-Pensioners are often gifted with considerable conversational powers which are not wasted when they are describing their past adventures. They have a certain weakness and fondness for tobacco and for beer—of course in moderation—and generation after generation have patronised "The Phoenix" and "The Coach and Horses" and other excellent houses in the neighbourhood. But surpassing all their excellent and most lovable qualities is the outstanding loyalty of the Pensioners to the Crown.

"These old walls have listened to stirring tales of adventure in all the wars of the British Army. But mingled with tales of war old soldiers, looking backwards, fondly remember various occasions when their regiments have taken part in State ceremonies. We men now on parade nearly all of us started and many finished their active service in the Reign of Queen Victoria. We look back with pride on lives spent in the service of the Crown.

"In future, among our treasured memories will be the proud recollection of Your Majesties' Inspection to-day. We thank Your Majesties for honouring us and we wish you both long life and happiness."

At the conclusion of the Parade Their Majesties inspected the Chapel, the Great Hall, the Great Kitchen, The Infirmary ruins—where the Physician and Surgeon, the Matron, and the Nursing Staff were presented to Their Majesties—and Nos. 1 and 2 Long Wards. They also talked to the Royal Cambridge Home Widows, who were drawn up in Figure Court.

Throughout the Inspection Their Majesties spoke most graciously to innumerable In-Pensioners and to every member of the Staff.

The Inspection over, Their Majesties honoured us by attending a reception in our house, and when they left at 1.15 p.m. they were given a rousing send-off by In-Pensioners lining the Light Horse Court and the East Road. The morning had been fine but threatening; very shortly after the visit was over there was a down-pour of rain. The whole day was a red letter one for the Royal Hospital and the memory of it is fondly cherished by many gallant old gentlemen.

To commemorate His visit His Majesty has presented a chair made from oak salvaged from the Royal Hospital buildings damaged by enemy action. The chair, by His Majesty's command, is to be kept in the Great Hall for the use of the In-Pensioners. It has been beautifully constructed by a very skilled craftsman and is a beautiful and lasting souvenir of a great occasion. His Majesty's name has been added to the list of Royal Benefactors recorded on the screen in the Great Hall.

Our war activities have continued and in many ways increased. Some Pensioners have obtained war work and have returned temporarily to Out Pension. Our In-Pensioners have helped in every way they can, many "Digging for Victory" in the grounds; others helping on Flag Days or at Pageants. We also have a knitter and basket maker who makes generous contributions to the Red Cross Fund, which is subscribed to regularly by the In-Pensioners.

The Working Party run by Lady Knox in the State Dining Room has met twice a week practically without intermission throughout the year. They have produced innumerable garments, etc., etc. Among the many activities of the Working Party is a War Savings Group. They have also helped many war charities.

A Garden Fete was held in the Ranelagh Gardens on the 8th August and a considerable sum of money was realised to assist in the War Savings Campaign.



A STROLL IN THE GARDENS

So far as conditions permit life in the Royal Hospital is carried on as usual. Temporary repairs have been made with a view to admitting some light and keeping out draughts from our damaged buildings. The great bulk of our railings have been removed and replaced, where necessary, by a temporary wire fence.

The health of the In-Pensioners has throughout the year been good, and the fact that the war-time ration is rather less than we used to enjoy in peace-time seems to have had no ill effects on the In-Pensioners; indeed, many figures have noticeably improved.

We still have our two Detachments at Ross-on-Wye, and our Infirmary remains comfortably installed in Mr. Anthony Rothschild's beautiful home, Ascott House, Wing.

It is pleasant to be able to record a hundred per cent rise in the rate of pay of those In-Pensioners who are not in receipt of the Contributory Old Age Pension. This high rate of increase need cause no pangs to the

tax-payers as the daily rate of pay before it was increased had stood for many years at the princely sum of 3d. a day.

The Board of the Royal Hospital has suffered a serious loss through the death of Sir Bertram Cubitt, who, for many years, had been a regular attendant at Board Meetings. He always took the keenest interest in the affairs of the Royal Hospital and we miss him greatly.

It is with regret that I inform you that this is the last time that I, as Governor of the Royal Hospital, will contribute to the Chelsea Society's Report. My appointment finishes this autumn when I will leave Chelsea with memories of many kindnesses from numerous friends, and with my admiration and affection for the British Army fortified and increased by five years' association with the grand old soldiers who are In-Pensioners of the Royal Hospital."

COUNCIL, MEMBERSHIP AND FINANCE.

By the death, this March, of Dr. H. C. Colles, the Council, of which he only became a Member last year, has lost a keen and valued colleague.

Dr. Colles, who had been the Music Critic of *The Times* since 1911, was interested in the work of the Chelsea Music Club, and he also devoted much time and energy toward the promotion of the views and aims of our Society in regard to the future of the Old Church. His good counsel will be much missed, and our sympathy goes out to Mrs. Colles in the sudden dissolution of "a completely happy partnership" whilst her husband was in the full enjoyment of his vitality and work.

Our year has closed with the death of the Hon. Lady Lyttelton, who had been a member of the Society since its foundation, and had more than once welcomed its members to the beautiful State Room at the Royal Hospital.

Mr. Grahame B. Tubbs, A.R.I.B.A., has joined the Council as the nominee of the Chelsea Arts Club.

The Council have also to record with regret the death of the Hon. Eveleen Campbell-Gray, Dr. Dawtrey Drewitt,



THE NEWS OF WATERLOO BROUGHT TO CHELSEA HOSPITAL PENSIONERS

from the painting by Sir David Wilkie

Freda, Lady Forres, C. Oscar Gridley, Miss Jessie Lovell, Miss Stuart, Mrs. Trouncer, and Miss Beatrice Lutyens.

The following new members were enrolled during the year : Mr. H. H. Wagstaff, Mr. Harry Cockburn, Mrs. P. Murray, Miss Mary South, Mr. Charles Wheeler, Alderman R. G. Wharam, J.P. (Mayor of Chelsea), Miss P. Boys Smith, Dr. G. Martyn, Mr. Hugo Pitman, Mr. Grahame Tubbs, Miss E. Elsley, Mrs. A. Bomer, Mrs. D. Brinsley Richards, Alderman Sir Howard Button, and Mr. H. M. Rennie.

The Council acknowledges with much gratitude donations from existing members received during the year amounting to £33. 7s. 8d. Such spontaneous contributions are doubly valued, both as helping to maintain a healthy balance sheet and as evidence of the continued interest in and appreciation of the work of the Society.

Though Miss Sanger's war work has taken her from London, the continuance of her clerical assistance is gratefully acknowledged.

The Account calls for no comment, save that in spite of inactivity imposed by war conditions we have paid our way, more than maintained our balance, and sent a donation of £5 to the Chelsea Boys' Club, a valuable local institution which is putting up a good fight under difficult conditions.

It must be reiterated that members can best show their interest in the Society by making it known to Chelsea Friends or sending to the Secretary the addresses of any whom they think likely candidates for enrolment.

Signed on behalf of the Council,

C. H. ST. J. HORNBY,

Chairman.

April 15, 1943.

(Reprinted by permission.)

CHELSEA OLD CHURCH.

The future of the churches that have been destroyed or damaged by the enemy—a question constantly at the back of many a mind—is brought to the front this morning by the publication of the fifteenth annual report of the Chelsea Society and by the ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY's address at St. Mary Woolnoth in the City of London. Places of worship must take a leading part among those buildings which the ARCHBISHOP sees to be necessary expressions and settings of the common civic life. The Chelsea Society first rehearses what is left of Chelsea Old Church and then turns to consider the future. The report shows that a surprising amount has been discovered and rescued from what forced upon the eye the most complete and hideous huddle of destruction to be seen in all London. Exceptionally rich in associations, Chelsea Old Church seems to have been exceptionally fortunate in the escape of the memorials of dead and gone worshippers whose memory none could wish to fade.

The contrast between the look of the ruins and what has been discovered beneath them must be allowed its emotional effect; but the barest statement of what is left would suggest very strongly that not to preserve them on the very same historic spot, not to make good such injuries in them as can be repaired, and not to set up for them a worthy house would be an unnecessary sacrifice of an opportunity which some will not hesitate to call miraculous. That, in effect, is to say that there must be a Chelsea "old" church on the site of the composite work of medieval and later ages round which a wealth of reverence and affection has for centuries bloomed. "Must," as all are well aware, is not a word that can be used offhand in such a matter. It is all too much complicated by considerations of expense, besides others of subtler character. But this at least is clear—that the case of Chelsea Old Church is one of a ruined church in which there are remnants well

worth rehousing, and that to rehouse them on some other site would be to rob them of very much of their influence and power of attraction. It may be advanced, also, that not only to dwellers in Chelsea has Chelsea Old Church stood for the centre and symbol of the wider civic life of a village or town hallowed by time and by the resort of great and good men and women.

Items of Interest

THE COLLEGE OF ST. MARK AND ST. JOHN.

Our members may be glad to hear something of the war fortunes of this College, which combines St. Mark's College, Chelsea (the Centenary of which was reached in 1941) with St. John's of Battersea, a year older in foundation. Under the title of "The Office of a Schoolmaster," Sir Edmund Phipps, a member of our Council, contributed to *The Times Educational Supplement* of February 28th, 1942, an interesting summary of the Annals of the two Colleges, which were united at Chelsea during the last war as a training institution for men teachers—the only Church of England one in London.

On the outbreak of the present war in September 1939, the Chelsea Borough Council occupied parts of the buildings and grounds for First Aid Posts and accommodation for Civil Defence and Canteen Workers, the students removing to Exeter and Cheltenham, and subsequently uniting at the Borough Road College, Isleworth.

French, Polish and Belgian refugees were housed in parts of the premises in 1940, and instructional courses are also now being organised here.

Post-war prospects will obviously have to take into consideration the present shortage of teachers, and the increased number that will be required by projected reforms; and the Board of Education is likely to press for the re-opening of all these Colleges with the maximum number of students.

The Principal, Mr. J. H. Simpson, is back in residence, and the Council look forward to re-opening the College at Chelsea as soon as possible after the war.

THE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

Mr. Sidney Kirby, its excellent Librarian, reports as follows on the Chelsea Public Library.

Despite the depleted population the Lending Library is issuing more books than it has done for many years past, and this no doubt, besides helping to maintain sane and healthy minds during a period of much mental stress, will help to bring informed judgment upon the problems facing the post-war world.

Considerable progress has also been made in making good the losses sustained during the 'blitz,' and the gratitude of all Chelsea readers is due to the many people who have helped in this work by useful and timely gifts. All such donations are always welcome, and if not wanted by the local library, will be passed on to other libraries that have suffered from enemy action.

Amongst acquisitions during the past year may be mentioned a large oil painting, by the late James Kerr Lawson, of the corner of Cheyne Walk and Cheyne Row, seen from the Embankment Gardens, with the late Archdeacon Bevan in the foreground. Mrs. Kerr Lawson also gave to the Reference Library her husband's favourite volume of *Dante's Comedia*, Venice, 1529, "as a souvenir of his love for the Reading Room of the Chelsea Public Library."

Four early wash drawings by Henry and Walter Greaves have been acquired by purchase. These drawings are fine examples of the best work of the Greaves brothers, and they depict in considerable detail the Cheyne Walk approach to the Old Church, the old water-front, and Duke Street as they were in the sixties of the last century. These drawings therefore form a valuable record of a part of Old Chelsea which has now completely disappeared.

The Library Committee have also acquired from the artist, the Hon. Mrs. D. Carruthers, a water-colour drawing of the More Chapel in the Old Church, the purchase money being given to the Old Church Fabric Fund.

No. 3 CHEYNE WALK.

The Council has heard with interest that this house, formerly the residence of Lord Ernle, has been acquired by the National Trust to receive Colonel Benton Fletcher's valuable collection of harpsichords, and to form a centre for the study and revival of early music. It is appropriate that a house once tenanted by Sir John Goss should again become a centre of music, as was that of Sir John Danvers, a little further west.

A DISCOVERY.

During heavy demolition work near the south west end of lower Old Church Street this winter, what appeared to be a large oval brick lined kiln was unearthed, cobble paved, and some twelve by ten feet in size. The suggestion was at once made that this cellar chamber might have been one of the kilns of the famous Chelsea China factory.

Research in this matter is still in progress, and Dr. Bellamy Gardner, with whom our Secretary at once communicated, has carefully examined the structure and had photographs taken. Hitherto there has been no evidence of the Factory extending to the West side of Church Street, and expert opinion is at present against the theory that this was one of their kilns.

P.S.—Later investigation goes to show that this cellar chamber was built and used for the storage of the china clay used in the factory. Its position close to the riverside and wharf, and also to the porcelain works, was ideal for this purpose, the clay being landed by barges from Dorset, and kept damp, superfluous water being drained off by the culvert. Similar chambers have been found by the riverside at Derby, to which the Chelsea Factory was ultimately transferred.

Whatever their earlier lapses, the L.C.C. to-day is laudably awake as regards the conservation of places and things of historic interest.

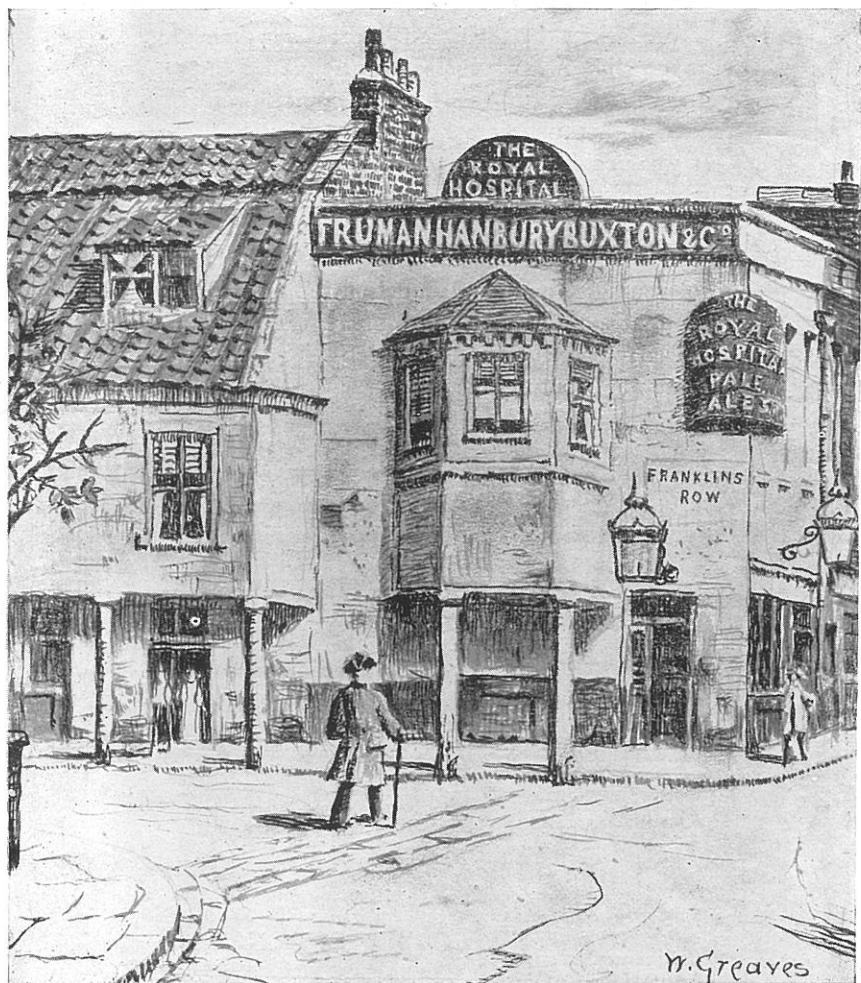
The next two houses north of No. 9 Old Church Street were the homes of John Martyn the botanist and physician, and of Edward Chamberlayne, LL.D., the author of six books and nine children, including Anne, who fought the French for six hours in a fireship in 1690, under the command of her brother Peregrine. Both these interesting little houses, though severely damaged by enemy action, may be capable of restoration, and have been reprieved by the Council from demolition.

THE OLD CHURCH ALMS DISHES.

Mrs. Arundell Esdaile's invincible perspicacity has discovered amongst the treasures of a collector, three pewter alms dishes which, it may be said without doubt, were part of the plate stolen from the Old Church in 1827. They are marked in incised lettering, "St. Luke's," 1714, and allotted for use in the three galleries. St. Luke's is a rare dedication in London, and three galleries a still rarer possession, but we know that a third was added at Chelsea across the chancel arch in 1698, and removed in 1832. It is much to be hoped that their owner's generosity may one day return these interesting dishes to a revived Old Church, even though it may not boast of three galleries.

HOLIDAY MAKING AT HOME.

Chelsea made a valiant effort last August to prove that journeys were not really necessary for a little relaxation and enjoyment. ENSA provided two admirable concerts at the Town Hall, where Dances were also arranged; and in the St. Luke's grounds there was a series of *al fresco* evenings enlivened by music from the Radio-Van. The Village 'Green' was less than verdant, and the weather was not uniformly kind, but thousands enjoyed themselves, and some of the dancing was of an almost apache energy that would have scorned a frost.



THE OLD ROYAL HOSPITAL TAVERN

from a drawing by Walter Greaves

FENCING FOR THE OLD CHURCH SITE.

Depredations occurred on more than one occasion last year on the hallowed site of the Old Church, including wanton damage to the little memorial garden made and tended with much care by Dr. and Mrs. H. Colles.

It was decided that this area must be fenced in, to prevent further mischief, and Mr. Richard Stewart-Jones, a member of our Council, organised a Concert in the autumn at 96, Cheyne Walk towards defraying the cost of this protection. The evening of music was a delightful one, the beautiful large reception room was filled to more than capacity, the sum required was raised, and the high chestnut paling encircling the site was promptly installed.

CHELSEA IN NEW YORK.

This note is taken from the *Old Church News Letter* of October, 1942:—

We have received the following note from a correspondent:

"Set into one wall of the Church is a bit of fabric that makes even century old St. Peter's (New York) seem young. It is a piece of white stone from the Old Chelsea Church in London, in the neighbourhood from which Thomas Clarke took the name for his estate. The London Church, historians say, was built in the year 789. Now, more than eleven centuries later, while it is reported destroyed by bombs, St. Peter's in the New World launches its second century. St. Peter's of Old Chelsea Square, New York."

CORRESPONDENCE.

Apart from a large number of letters expressing sympathy and regret at the destruction of the Old Church, and hopes for its restoration, the following matters have been subjects of correspondence during the year:—

Burial place and tomb of John Martyn the Physician, Botanist and Classical Scholar in the King's Road Burial Ground. GILBERT J. KING MARTYN, M.D.

Local data for the musical play, "Old Chelsea," c. 1790.
W. EDWARD STIRLING.

Seats in Sloane Square. A. E. DENT.

Architectural Style in Rebuilding. HON. A. NAPIER, REV.
RALPH SADLEIR, SIR WILLIAM FURSE, MARQUESS OF CREWE.

Old Church Wall Tablet to "Casterton". M. R. CADE.

The Peter Jones Building. HENRY STRAUSS, M.P.

A Scrap Book of Chelsea Records, compiled by the late
John J. Wheeler. MISS WHEELER.

Sir John Cheyne of Minchinhampton. ERNEST DAVIES.

NOTES.

Members are particularly asked to advise the Secretary of any change of address, in order that Reports and Notices may not go astray.



Small Bequests to the funds of THE CHELSEA SOCIETY would be welcomed, and would help to consolidate its position.



Chelsea Old Church—An illustrated Historical Guide Book by Archdeacon Stewart, edited with various additional matter by Reginald Blunt, can be obtained from The Secretary. Post free, 1s. 4d.



Copies of the Society's Annual Reports (1928-42)—except the 3rd and 4th, out of print. Post free, 1s. each.



Their illustrations have always been an integral and much appreciated feature of these Reports. Rather than forego them, a cheaper paper has been used, blocks have been loaned, and other items omitted.



In view of its 250th Anniversary in 1942, this year's views have been devoted chiefly to the Royal Hospital.

THE CHELSEA SOCIETY

Statement of Receipts and Expenditure for the year ending March 31st, 1943

Dr.	£	s.	d.	Cr.	£	s.	d.
To Balance brought forward				By Printing Annual Reports,			
April 1st, 1942 ...	97	8	1	blocks and insets ...			25 1 0
Less due to Treasurer		4	3	„ Stationery and Typing...			1 5 11
			97 3 10	„ Postage of Report and			
„ Entrance Fees—				Correspondence ...			4 11 10
New Members ...	22	15	0	„ Donation to the Chelsea			
Associates ...	1	5	0	Boys' Club ...			5 0 0
			24 0 0	„ Balance at the Bank,			
„ Donations ...			33 7 8	March 31st, 1943 ...	120	11	7
„ Sale of Books and				In Treasurer's hand		1 18	5
Reports ...			7 3				122 10 0
„ Interest on £100 3½%							
War Stock ...			3 10 0				
			£158 8 9				£158 8 9

Note.—The Chelsea Society holds £100 3½% War Stock.

REGINALD BLUNT, *Hon. Treasurer.*

I have examined the above account with the books and vouchers and find it correct. I have also verified the investment held.—PERCY H. COOK.

6th April, 1943

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† Member of Council.

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