Miscellaneous

B (173)

5

Poplar Workhouse

District 11.

From Charles Booth,
9, Adelphi Terrace
Strand, London, W.C.

COLL U

B
173

[i]

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M420

Name	Interviewer	Address	Page	Nature of Interview.
F.A. Bullivant	ALB.	38. West Ferry Road Milwall.	1–13.	re. Character of Milwall population.
W.G. Martley	E.A.	134 High Street Poplar.	15-47.	Poplar C.O.S
William Crooks M.P.	G.H.D.	28 Northumberland Street, Poplar	49-65.	Character of himself & public work in Poplar.
C.H. Conn	C.B.	British St. Board School. Isle of Dogs	67-75	Head master. Efforts & influences in the Isle of Dogs.
L. Williams	G.H.D.	8 Woodstock Road. Poplar.	77-85.	Head master. Broad St. Bd. School. Ratcliffe. re public work in Poplar.
H.R. Barge (H. Rowlatt)	G.H.D.	4 Woodstock Road. Poplar. (Poplar Free Library)	93-101	Head master. St Leonards Road Board School. His opinions on church work.
Miss Price	ALB.	323 West Ferry Road. Isle of Dogs	103	Clubs for boys, girls, mothers; a provident Bank & Coffee Tavern in Isle of Dogs
Radford Sharpe	ALB.	Burdett Road.	123	Stepney C.O.S. Secretary.
G. Madbock	G.H.D.	Farrance Street Board School.	131-139	Head master of school with highest average attendance in England.
F.M. Conner M.D.	G.H.D.	Manor St. E. India Dock Rd.	141-159.	Poplar past & present.
Bolton Smart.	E.A.	2. Portland St.	165	Member of Board of Guardians.
E.C. Wills	E.A.	38. Albert Square E	181	Justice of Peace.
H.R. Barge.	G.H.D.	St. Leonards Rd. Board School. (Headmaster)	193	Copy of Answers to Form. E.
Sister Maude.	G.H.D.	1 Row Lane. Poplar. E.	199	Work of the Nursing Sisters of St. John the Divine
Mrs Smith	G.H.D.	Bromley Training Institute	211	Work of the Institute
Mrs. Brodie	A.L.B.	399. East India Dock Rd	221	Work of the Girls Friendly Society
J. J. Gale	GLA.	15 Sandsees St. Bow & Wesleyan Day School Hale St. Poplar	227	

Poverty.

Drink

Parish notes
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(2)

May 6th. 1897.

Interview with Mr F. A. Bulliant:-
38 West. Ferry Road. Milwall.

Mr Bulliant is a large employer in Millwall, and does a good deal of philanthropic work there. Though a pleasant, hearty fellow he does not impress me as one who knows the district very deeply, though he has spent his days, and some of his nights there for 15 years

Millwall is on the whole fairly prosperous; there is little in no great poverty, though there are a great many poor people scattered through the streets. Most of the streets are pink as coloured on our map. The worst part of Millwall is towards the South; here there are a good many Irish, and some very rough characters.

There has been a great increase of temperance within Mr B's memory: not only does he notice it in the streets, but among his own workmen the

Housing, Sanitation and Health.

Improvement is great. There is much less stopping out on Monday through drink than there used to be. There is still known an excessive amount of drinking, though Mr. D. has not noticed that it has increased lately with the increasing prosperity.

The people generally are well housed, and few of the houses are jerry-built. The houses for the most part are at least 20 years old and in many cases the drainage was very defective, but this has lately been remedied in almost every case. The Island being below high water mark was formerly notorious for floods, and it was common for the sewers to flood up into the ground floors of the houses: owing however to the activity of the County Council this is a thing of the past. They have erected great pumping works which do their work efficiently. Though breezy and open, and in some respects very healthy, yet the Island owing to floods and imperfect drainage used to suffer much from ill health: it was especially subject to throat disease, and largely to rheumatism and chest complaints

Marriage

Religion.

These are still unduly prevalent but much less so than formerly. Mr B. subscribes to various hospitals and the applications for letters are much less frequent than at one time.

Mr B. had little to say on this, but he certainly had noticed that very youthful marriages were not uncommon among his own lads. He not unfrequently hears of boys marrying at 18 or even at 17. He thinks that the majority of the girls are not virgins when they marry. The girls on the Island are for the most part a rough lot

For the most potent religious force in the Island is the Church; all the other religious bodies are weak, but the Church has been very active. But as far as getting the people to public worship it has not been very successful. At St Luke's (Mr B's parish) the congregations are very small though Mr Hewlett, the Vicar is a man of great activity. He has known perhaps but too long at the work, and is now getting a little past it.

Education.

Charity.

The great centre of activity however has been the work of Mr Kite and Mr McKenzie in the south of the Island.

What astonishes Mr B. is the extraordinary quickness with which lads forget what they have learnt at school. It is quite common to find young men who have passed the standards who can scarcely if at all write their names. The letters which he gets from his men asking for help or on other matters are nearly always astoundingly illiterate. A great deal of good however is being done by the evening Continuation Schools.

Outside the Church Mr B. appears to be the only centre of charity in the Island. His chief work is Poor Children's Free Dinners: these have been going on since 1888. The number of dinners given in the first year was 11754; in 1894-95 the great winter, the number was 20,155. this season the ~~num~~ number was 25814 given at

a cost of £148. 9. 6. Mr D. pointed with some pride to the increase in the number of dinners since the start without any apparent suspicion that this might point to the fact that they were more largely used by those who did not really require them. As gently as possible I suggested the chance of abuse to him: he assured me that he had every reason to believe they were not abused: his instructions were that dinners were only to be given to children whose fathers were out of work or in partial work and that when men returned to work they very generally withdrew their children of their own accord. The dinners consist of especially good and strong Irish stew. Mr D. has noticed, and the Inspector has remarked on the great improvement in the appearance of the children since they were started.

Mr D. is further interested in the Poplar Benevolent Society, which appears to be the usual ticket society. He gets so many tickets for his subscription which he distributes partly to the clergy and ministers, and keeps some for himself.

Police

Amusements

Outside the Church there is little charitable work on the Island. The large employers of whom many are wealthy are very mean, and spend nothing on the Island: only with great difficulty can the vicar wring any of them to contribute to his Dinner fund. The ground landlords are known by generous and support the Church well.

I don't know for certain but should imagine that with the best intentions Mr D. manages to do a good deal of harm in the way of charitable relief.

The Police are very efficient and do their work well. Mr D. has never heard any suspicion that they are open to bribery or partiality.

The Island is very badly off for places of entertainment: there is nothing nearer than the Queen's Poplar. The result is that the people generally do not get much entertainment of any sort. Mrs Pulliblank used to get up Concerts, but they were probably too good, and were not well attended. What they like best are concerts and sing-songs

got up among themselves; these are always crowded.

The thing in which the Island is most interested is Football. The Millwall Athletic Club is of course of national reputation and there is much betting on the results of their matches. Mr D. has not noticed that his men gamble largely apart from this.

List of Agencies promised.

Note on the district: "remote".

Miscell 10.11.12 8

May 8. 97

(2)

Interview with Mr Martley
Local Sec. Poplar Committee – C. O. S.
134 High Street. Poplar.

Mr Martley began by saying that as a fairly resident he could not give comparisons between past & present. He gave me the names of various old residents, mentioning especially Dr Cornet, a resident of 40 years standing.

Mr Martley is going away for about a week, but as soon as possible after return will send as complete a list as he can of charitable, benefit, recreative and other corporate agencies. He warns us that in view probably be most incomplete as regards recreative clubs & clubs connected with single large firms.

He made the general remark that Poplar is a remote district. Necessary always to arrange trains to reach rich districts, except Hackney which cannot be compared with West London. In Poplar therefore there is no falling over one other of agencies as there is in some parts of London.

Poor Law Administration:

His own C. O. S. Ctee is almost exclusively a local one. The Chairman lives at Hampstead, but he is almost the only non-resident member. The Church far more represented than any other section. Even the lay members generally represent a church. Dissenters friendly but don't join, or if they join, don't attend. Probably too much pre-occupied, but also their attitude explained by fact that their own people as a rule are not under many of the class from whom applicants come.

He also said

There are no working-men on the Committee. In opinion and group of policy the Ctee not a strong one. Only a couple working-men might therefore find no "counterpoise" on the Ctee. A. "You are really opposed to put-ting on, eh?" M. "Yes, it amounts to that."

A single B. of G. for Poplar, Bromley & Bow. A separate "relief committee" for each of following districts:-

I Bow + half of Bromley
II. Other half of Bromley + East-Poplar } Eight-Relieving Officer's District.
III. West-Poplar and the Island.

Lansbury runs No I with the result that the best-off district has most paupers. But Lansbury like others, in

learning his lesson.

Crooks makes a good guardian, and as regards the Poplar Committee, assuming that you are to have out-relief at all, "no serious fault to be found."

Note: on special relief during the three winters of exceptional distress 1891-3 see C.O.S. special reports for the whole of London. Issued each year.

Mr Mallet greatly impressed by change in composition & policy of the Board brought about by the Local Government Act of 1894. The change began in 1892, when Crooks and one other Labour member were returned. But since 1894 relation a much more sweeping change. Lessons are not learnt from the first class of members, and mistakes are being made. But on the whole improvement is even already resulting. And the new men are working their own salvation; learning their own lesson. Has great hopes that things will shape themselves for the better. This change & this hope applies to various areas as D. of G.

One marked effect of change in the better administration of the Work-House, "More humane" perhaps "not penal enough"; but "much better". The same tone of the

Police

Public Houses.

Bogus Trade in public houses:

Sick Asylum. Some abuse still larger e.g. nursing by paupers not entirely abolished. But disappearing.

No adverse first-hand knowledge. Mr Neil can speak on this. Knows a good deal. Told M. he got information mainly by talking with those who had left the force.

Several grounds but on the whole well-kept. Beer-houses often change hands. Five or six cases a year generally come to his Chief of proprietors who have failed.

Has evidence that there is a considerable Bogus Trade in Public Houses carried on. There is a good deal of capital always looking for investment in this direction, & the owners of it are often gulled. Thus, a house is often taken and run on a sham trade for three or four weeks. Advertising. The would-be purchaser calls & perhaps finds house empty. "Ah! but you should come round at about 8; that's when we do our trade". Invitations go round; free drinking ensues, and at 8 the bar is crowded, full, as the unfortunate purchaser afterwards says, "at a time" that is on experience nearly never.

Drinking Temperance

Influence of Church &c.

Martin

Temperance movement not very active in Poplar, but does not consider that it is an especially drinking district. The Corner on the other hand does.

The workman work from beyond boundary to take advantage of Sunday hours a regular occurrence.

Inclined to be more democratic tone in touch with the working-man. The old charge of "too much gaiters" does not hold now. Young clergymen (e.g. the Rector) much more accessible.

Influence of Church thus tends to be stronger, but it is marred constantly by division of ultimate ecclesiastical ends. On the whole, so persistent in this, that it may perhaps be said that the influence of the working-man on the Church is greater than that of the Church on the working-man. And on the whole the clergy are not a really strong set of men.

On high anglican tendencies of churches of district said that people like the brightness, music, incense &c. Poorer people thus often attracted but doubted if doctrine was understood, or if they attached any importance to underlying principles. To compared with that of the Rector, though that the influence of a man like Neale, comparatively inactive though he was,

was more "formative", though numbers influenced smaller, & representing a higher sphere of society. ~~He~~ Neal works with no accessories, & those that come to him are thus more likely to be under a genuine personal attraction. Hence in greater expectancy in the sense described.

There are 12 ecclesiastical parishes in the C.O.S. district of which six are "active":

- ✓ Chandler
- ✓ Carroll
- ✓ Bedford
- ✓ Bennett
- ✓ Bendall
- ✓ Cowan.

The three following are moderate amateurs, less active as regards organization, visits, etc. but satisfactory cases:

- ✓ Neal
- ✓ Ell. St
- ✓ Mr N. Ls.n.

The three following are unsatisfactory:-

- ✓ H. Wh. St: S.A; does practically nothing -

Nonconformists.

Notes.

✓ Alp. — Bought living; gives away the minimum amount of alms required to get a congregation to know the most decent: a "m.n. opp.ed man".

if Wm Smith is fairly likely.

C. Edw.ll — Just returned to Island, after having been interested for 7 years for drink.

A good deal of "gentle pressure" to go to church put on people by district visitors. This leads to hypocrisy. The motive chiefly speculation. The evil very common. Visitors rarely warned by clergy to avoid it.

A considerable number of resident-lady visitors = Popish, who come to the district to liven up this work.

Much more recreative effort made by the Church now than formerly: music, dancing, theatricals, entertainment, cricket, athletic clubs &c.

Losing ground decidedly. Have lost by gradual change in character of district. Middle class very largely moved away. Some

Missions.

No bogus missions.

Education.

Chapels have a reduced staff, although some have actually closed, it is often a great struggle to keep going. Thus the efforts of the minister & others actively responsible often consumed in holding things together.

Very few missions of any importance except the City Mission. This has several missionaries at work and six mission rooms. The men are on the whole a good lot. They administer a certain amount of charity.

There are now no bogus missions. There used to be one run by a man named Fuller with head-quarters in a chapel in Brunswick Road. He succeeded, & with his profits has now created a gorgeous shop. The chapel is closed and M. does not know whether or not Fuller has associated himself with any other cause. His character is pretty well gauged by many in the district, but he bought his present premises; his customers are ~~poor~~ poor people & probably know & think nothing of his mission past.

Believes that Education is the influence that does it & is activing to do, most good short-hand. There is of course danger from limited view, superficiality, & when a little knowledge is applied from

School & Church compared.

non-recognition of complexity of practical problems. But the penalty lies in more education, not less.

A good deal is to be hoped for from growing continuation & other classes, & these many more now than in the past. But there is still too little outside interest shown in these, & the managers are as a rule a poor lot.

Considers that the influence of the Boards generally, especially the Board Boards, is centralizing, & humanizing. It is centralizing in many indirect ways & tends to improve the boards themselves. By the boards the element of training & discipline are introduced; and a standard, which with many is the first requisite, is often set by them. They are moreover popular, and appreciated by the parents.

In many ways, the influence of the Boards more favouring than that of the churches. In some way or other the Boards touch nearly every family.

To religion in the ordinary sense, a wide-spread indifference, tho' interest was not stimulated little likelihood of any development. A kind of sublimated Tract mission the most probable gospel – a vague bias towards what which is believed to be good for oneself & others.

V Thrift &c.

VI. Housing &c.

Health.

Poverty

Still rather exceptional for a man to join a friendly society.

a Collecting Savings Bank worked in two parishes – Chandlers & Carrolls.

Poplar Saving Bank: (Office in Town Hall).

Housing on the whole good. Poplar is a two-storied district. Most dwelling have a little yard or garden. In the Stepney some allotments, & houses have larger gardens. One of a thing that makes them really useful for growing a few vegetables &c.

Practically there is no overcrowding in Poplar. The streets are generally wide. Very few courts & alleys. a few slums, perhaps ten, but all small and disappearing.

But, certain streets & districts show signs of becoming slums. These are three such areas:-

Ashton Street Area
Sophia — —
Grosslipe — —

Part of the district (East Poplar & the Islands) on alluvial

Hatley

side; the rest on London clay. Most of the best former districts below high water mark.
But district healthy as a whole. Rheumatism & Phthisis the characteristic local maladies.

Two lead factories. Women children still employed, but numbers being gradually diminished. (These two factories with two others in Limehouse now under single management).
Grain department: as worst & dusty & phthisis.
A galvanizing factory said to be unhealthy.
Malton girls. Rarely lead of case of illness from employment here. The factories themselves are outside district, but many living here work in them.
[Wood & varnishing employment generally & bronchitis & rheumatism].

Water famines not infrequent - very serious when they come. They always occur at time of year when water is most concentrated.

Four blocks as follows:-

Work Street:

Water-supply.

Blocks & dwellings.

Lodging Houses.

Hartley

Satisfactory.	Grosvenor Buildings.	The Cooper. two separate tenants of eight beds.
	L.C.C. Buildings.	Most decent.
Empty	Arnold's or Aberdeen Beds.	Condemned by Sanitary Authorities.
	Hartley Buildings, High St.	Small but very bad.

Three Registered Common Lodging Houses for Men :-

4d & 6d	St James Chambers, High St.	The dirty one.
	Moore's, Cotton St.	
	Colman, Penny fields.	

No Women Lodging Houses.

No Shelters or Refuges. "Fortunately so far. I wonder we have escaped so long. Liverpool has more than its fair share".

General Conditions as to poverty.

Sanitation.

Mortality

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10.11.12
8

On May 7 I had a supplementary interview with Mr Mattey, taking Form E instead of D, as basis.

Poplar "not a very poor district". Compares for instance, very favourably with adjacent parts of Canning Town. There Halls Ville and Custom House are large deprived areas with which Poplar has nothing to compare.

Character of these parts of Canning Town probably partly explained by fact that, being extra-Metropolitan, they had been under less strict sanitary supervision; less harried. In any case they are very bad districts & locally to describe a family as having fallen "over the bridge" implies descent. "Is this what Arden finds his 70% of unemployed?" "I dare say most of them never will be employed, & don't intend to be, in anything of the nature of regular work".

Been work taken in hand in recent years, especially as regards main drainage. Much has been done on the Blackwall especially by the Pumping Station of the L.C.C.

On the whole local sanitary administration good. A good Medical Officer, and the Sanitary Inspectors much

Early Marriages.

Pre-marital relations:

better than they used to be.

Limehouse Cut. and the Lea fetid in summer & bad for immediate neighbourhoods.

Medical Officers Report should be consulted.

Thinks not a common evil, but the Registrar & the Church would soon settle the question.

Connection prior to marriage very common.
Regular connection without legal tie common.

A good deal of prostitution. The women mostly daughters of the rougher labourers of the district. Resorts mainly brothels or dance brothels. No Common Lodging Houses for bad sexes. Has no knowledge of character of local coffee-houses, though some are reputed by a very queer sort of women.

Drinking the main channel to vice.

Local administration re disorderly houses fitful, and very expensive. Friction generally means simply a more ame-

Crime.

Recreation.

where she drove by. Per of what the authority in charge acts.

Not much in the district, except violence. Sometimes domestic, sometimes, quarrelling on public-houses. Sailors often mixed up in it.

But Poplar seems to be more or less a resort of shady people, who for some unknown reasons, want to be low. Probably many are criminals "working" elsewhere, e.g. West. There is a well-known receiving-house, he believes in Bow Common Lane.

(In the little streets lying off the Upper Road Monday days some characters are often found. Western people are simply living from relations in West-Central day. But the characteristic many not-r. specially marked in district. [With the Lee instead of the Channel perhaps there is some analogy between the Upper Road side streets and Boulogne].

Minerva athletic club. Forest ground. Great crowds on Saturday.

Cycling becoming very general. Probably detained to work

Women's Employment.

important influence. Shop-keeping does especially lead to it, so far. But for large numbers powers of locomotion being very largely much especially increased

The Music Hall. Not a financial success. Otherwise does nothing of it.

Betting. Common. Talk of (bookmakers) Motorcia outside works. Sporting very largely attended. Lots of breaks go to Epsom. Publicans often run a break.

Volunteering. Not much. No local drill-hall.

Swimming. a good deal of interest in this.

A marked growth in amount of women work. Factory employment for women decidedly increased; for this some come from Canning Town & Deptford. But most noticeable increase is in dep.-tailoring. Some home work, but a good deal done in shops. Most of the latter very poorly.

Matters against that reasons might be found in

(1) Normal expansion of this trade in London.

Nursing.

General employment.

(3) gradual change in attitude of the Popular people.

Three agencies:-
In Johns House Sisters (Church of E.) The most-
efficient.
In Grattan Guinness's Nurses. (Non con.)
Salvation Army Nurses. (Street-workers).
In addition some private nurses.
So far as Central Popular is concerned nursing fairly efficient. But there is only one trained nurse in the Island.

The volume tends to vary a good deal from year to year, the visible industry connected with shipping being especially fluctuating.

His Master is married; a man of about 40; not physically strong, but quietly persistent; thoughtful; forms his opinions deliberately; is known as having good knowledge & skill & as an efficient worker.

William Crooks LCC.

Life of Wm Crooks

A prenticed Cooper.

Machinery v. Coopering

The doctrine of 'Help yourself'.

Muscell 10.11.12

(2)

G.H.d.

May 12th

William Crooks - 28. Northumberland Street Cr. Stainsby Road. Poplar.

William Crooks. LCC. a Trustee for Poplar. a body which has power to raise the rates. composed of all rated at over £24 with power to add 10 others - he is one of the 10. Now aged 45. Vestry man. & Guardian.

W.C: born in Poplar. maintained out of Poor rates until 9 years of age. Father accident. taken into Workhouse. WC. admitted to Wk House. age 9 - 11 in a milk shop. 11 - 14 Blacksmith's shop. at 14 apprenticed to a cooper (in a Brewery) - was elected to LCC while still a cooper in 1892. Beat Bulkwant the wire rope man by 1048 votes.

Not enough coopering for machinery in London. So much slack time - Machinery wd pay if it cd be kept continually going. Men can go on repairs but machinery cannot.

Was elected to the Guardians in 1893 to the same Board as had taken him into the House when he was a boy. Preaches the doctrine 'Help yourself' Self reliance the underlying principle. Stands never pandered to the working man.

Vestry in Poplar evenly divided. Progressives have a majority of

Police

Improvement in Poplar.

Prostitution

Said that working men did not as a rule cohabit with their wives before marriage. He was rather strong on this.

The Lowest Streets in Poplar.

of 3. Is one of the Library Commissioners. Free Library adopted by 3300 to 1100 votes.

Honestly believes they have the best police in Poplar that they have got anywhere in London. Inspectors always send up to Crooks form information about processes inflammatory speakers. Have always got on very well with them.

Poplar much better than 10 yrs ago. infinitely better. Never so much drunk in Poplar as last X mas but not among the working man. Open winter - good for building trade. Never remembers so much prosperity in Poplar.

Prostitutes live in Clifton Street. Come to drink at the Duke of Suffolk in Northumberland Street. The only pit public in the neighbourhood.

Normal condition of the people gradually improvement. Love of tidiness growing: example of people living opposite, very poor, whom he has watched for years - due to education.

Sophia St & Rodk St the lowest streets in poplar. but all have clean blinds. knew the time when they were only taken down at X mas.

Out relief given in Poplar. Is chairman of the Boarding out Committee

Poor law Administration

Out relief for the aged.

Effect of indiscriminate out-relief in Bow.

Church work in Poplar.

granted to deserving paupers with settlement in Poplar but

Committee; Non settled relief (sibstitution) for other parishes; Fair number of the Cases come up quarterly 10 to 18. cases last week. 3/- generally allowed if they have a good character

Approves of out relief properly administered. Cannot lay down any hard and fast line. Never give out relief in case of able bodied persons unless sick. Never relieve cases of want of work. For the aged persons he has his own opinion. If an aged couple comes up with rent & part food already provided for them, then he allows 6/- per week. Insists that what is given shall enable them to live decently. No part of the relief may go in rent; uncleanliness punished by the House. Applicants examined & medical officer examined before grant. Then relief allowed for 2 weeks during which time the case is watched carefully & reported on by the relieving officer. No relief given without strict investigation. Hears they are wasteful in Bow & give it away & waste money. Told story of a lady with 36/- per week apply for relief in Bow because she heard they were giving away 4/ or 5/- per week to all applicants.

The Church is doing more now in Poplar than ever before in 60 Cs

The Non Conformists

Chandler & Crooks.

The out of work Committee during the hard frost.

Leonard Potts 11 Sparks
Sh. be seen.
S

Friendly Societies

life. Rev A Chandler a very active fellow. Former Nonc's debt all now they dont do a thing: cant make it out: Noncons dont do a lot of social work. Until Chandler came to Poplar Crooks was never inside the Rectory. Unemployed Committee (93-4) 4 yrs ago organised at the Rectory every penny went in give work. Many paid into the District 18d of works which proved to employ all cost which was paid from the fund. Was very indifferent when he first saw the parsons. Working men invited to join the Committee. Cases papers given round. Working men members rejected 50% more cases than the parsons. The man who investigated the case took the money and to the family & supervised its spending. Relief first then work. Men who did not turn up were struck off & no begging cd get them back again. Result extremely good. 3 days work allowed men. All other employment repeated. £5000 worth of work done & the money collected more than covered any loss.

Thrift & Friendly Societies. a good many in poplar. Graham at Allison & Barbers. York Rd. Rupx. just outside Maiden Lane Station. He is inspector under the Flanders act. One of the

morning at the Guardians office.

Chandlers curates.

Artisan's dwellings.

The difficulties of small Householders.

Roman Catholic work.

Slackness of the Temperance party.

smartest men in Poplar. Butler the assistant Clerk to the Guardians also a smart man.

Chandlers curates do a lot of work. more carrying out than directing. Rev. H. Kennedy, Greenway, Dalton all vicars of Allhallows - Carroll at St Frideswides. Also a capital person from Canning town - all doing splendid work.

The only thing that consoles him for the artisans dwellings & their 50% is remembering what was there before.
"What we does like is a little place of wes own". But they are better than slums, that's all.
50% of his visitors come with complaints about their lodgers. Lodgers are the difficulty of small householders who cant afford a whole house.

House in which he was born in, the top floor - 2 rooms : 2 parents & 7 children in each. People are overcrowded not because they like it but because they cant afford more room.

RCs. work for their own people only. Are a decent lot sep. Father Ladess..

Is a teetotaller & much dissatisfied with the work done by the temperance party. Board schools doing a marvellous work

Church & Board Schools.

Roman Schools

Marriages

Esprit de Corps in Board School.

Personal appearance of Mr. Crooks.

His manners.

better than Church school. His children went first of all to the Church School because it was the nearest. They made no progress. Now go to Board School in Ferrant Street. Head master Maddox. First rate. Largest

Father Lawlers have good school.

Marriages early in poorly. Self married at 19 & 7 months had a daughter born & buried before he was out of his apprenticeship. Wd not marry so young again if he had the chance.

average attendance of any school in the Kingdom but have never had a perfect week. Last week they got to Friday with perfect attendances. Then one boy failed. His own children returned home in a state of fury. A most excellent school for getting hold of the spirit of the children & making them work willingly.

Mr Crooks is a short, burly man, inclined to be stout. With a thick short beard & whiskers, well-trimmed. Sat in his shirt sleeves. Clean shirt. Gruff powerful voice. Much tact. Regarded as a family peacemaker in the neighbourhood. to judge from the stories he told – without any appearance of bragging. Table littered with papers & Volumes of Magazines lying about. Considerable disorder.

Table

Mrs. Crooks.

Her relations in the country.

Table in the window covered with flower pots & ferns - about 10 pots. Has no garden but fond of flowers. Mrs Crooks a large country woman. Twice married but has had no children. Has quite enough to do with her stepchildren! Does everything for them. Prides herself that nothing is done out of the house. Born in Gloucestershire between Dunkesbury & Cheltenham (forget name of village) Generally stays with an aunt when she has kept lately. Her favourite sister married the village blacksmith; stays with her from time to time; an amusing house to stay in. 'If there's nothing going on anywhere else, you're sure to 'ear something at the forge!' The other sister married a head gamekeeper. Her mother has married again. Does not approve of the man, so does not go near the house even when staying in the village. Goes nearly every August with husband & children to Gloucestershire for summer holidays. So fond & proud of flowers & also of the fact she was not born in London. Has a box of flowers 5 times during the summer from Lord Denbigh. Eldest stepdaughter is 23. Lives with an aunt & 'goes out to work'. This daughter has a young man of who she does not think good enough: young man taken with them to Gloucestershire last year. 'She's keeping company with him but I hope she'll not have him!' Eldest son 19 apprenticed to a cooper.

Ale

Crooks' care for unpreventable poverty.

Crooks versus Lansbury.

(The above came out in a conversation while Mr Crooks was called away to confer with the head engineer of the Blackwall Tunnel – Mr Moir) man whom he said had earned 30/- a week in the Forth Bridge as a fitter & is now paid £100 per year – 'a regular masters man'.).

Mr Crooks said his great care was for those in poverty thro' no fault of their own. That was his own case. As a child his mother had to sit up all night working to keep them in food. Mother still alive: lives with daughter who is a widow. Himself & brother pay in 'some shillings a week' to help them along. The old lady's memory failing her now, does not always recognize her own sons.

Mr Crooks very glad to give any further information or any help in his power. Had just got Life & Labour Vol IX. but not yet read it.

Some feeling apparently between Crooks & Lansbury, owing to the opening of a stoneyard for the unemployed in 189(5?), (not the year of the great frost). Crooks said the stoneyard was demoralising. Lansbury that it gave many

The Cause of difference

Migration to Canning Town.

money to the working men who were in need of it.
Crooks denounced it in public 'tho' it is always a hard thing for a labour man to speak against anything that will put money in the pockets of working men. Indignation meeting at Dock Gates against Crooks. Men said they would tear him in pieces – He went out & spoke to the Crowd who howled him down but did not touch him. The stakeyard was carried for Bow. Lansbury cheered. Crooks rioted yard 'Not 3% of those working in it were right uns.'
Crooks did not ~~one~~ mention Lansbury's name except to say he was cheered on this occasion.

A good many of the poorest have drifted into Canning Town. The ½d toll at the bridge was a bar formerly & kept them in Poplar. When this was done away they gradually went across. Canning Town has a rough set of men.

Poverty.

Drink.

Interview - 12 May 1897 Parish notes ii

(2)

with Mr C H Conn - Head master British & Board School. Isle of Dogs.

Mr Conn has been a master in this School for 25 years but is still a young man. He has been mentioned to us as well acquainted with the neighborhood & the people & all the efforts that are being made. He has evidently outlived many illusions & takes a rather pessimistic view but remains energetic. He is a religious man - a dissenter - Wesleyan I think.

Not so much money going as formerly - that is many years back - but an improvement during the last 3 or 4 years work is largely connected with the docks but there are factories & workshops. The dock work better paid but more irregular than the shops & factories where 21/. is the usual weekly wage. Poverty largely the result of drink - the women worse than the men, but this view seemed connected with the result on the children's condition which would of course be more affected by the mothers conduct. Thinks there is less drinking than there used to be but connects it with their being less money. Temperance societies connected with each religious organisation especially Bands of Hope. The excessive number of Public Houses an evil.

Housing

Sanitation.

Health.

Early marriages

Mr Corn

Many in bad repair. The landlords not willing to do much partly because if put in good order the inhabitants soon make them as bad as ever. Chiefly owned by companies & one or two large owners eg. Lady Charteris & Hobbs St. – the rent collector is merely a collector of rents. House accommodation is scarce & rents have risen largely owing to the establishment of Mackonochie's Jam works (moved from Ipswich). Available space is absolutely restricted to the fringe round the docks &c. & is occupied by works to a great extent.

Has been very bad but is being improved by the action of the County Council Surveyor or Inspector – who does good work – quite honest he thought. Health good even bad sanitation seems not to matter. There is plenty of fresh air & Mr Corn thinks chemical & manure works are wholesome in their effects.

Marriages are often early because of the results of previous intercourse – not otherwise. Amongst the factory girls conduct is very loose. Those who go with more than one man women probably not marry but go to the workhouse & put out the baby which women very likely die – & they might afterwards marry respectably.

Religious influence

The Catholics attend to their own proper & have them well in hand

Mr Conn

Mackonochie's factory brought a large number of girls from Ipswich who being without family life ran very loose – some have suffered severely & some home & gradually the full complement of London girls will be obtained. But even the London girls who live at home are very free in their movements – out as late as they please – merely lodgers at home. Mr Conn did not know how the parents regarded loose conduct – ~~but~~ in any case they had little influence. Some of the worst girls live at Canning Town.

The influence of religion is less than it used to be & in fact very little influence is exercised at all. The children are sent to Sunday school – but the parents don't come to Church – all grades of working men & those above that position, as managers, pilots &c, share this indifference. They have nothing to say against religion even approve – but don't take any part. There is not much bribing to go to Church – but a new effort called the New Church Mission – connected in some way with Christ Church Cubit Town gives tickets &c to those who attend & in this way gets a congregation. Mr Conn thought never the less they were doing a good work (Mr Tree is the missionary)

Influence of Education –

Miss Price (who we have already seen) works with Mr Free but independently & was long before him. Mr Conn says that neither socially nor religiously do the people get anything much out of the Churches. but contradicted himself I thought a little when he admitted that there were no local amusements except such entertainments &c as were got up by the religious bodies There are no clubs. The public house however comes in as a substitute. those who drink find company in that way

Mr Conn can trace no improvement in behaviour. the children are more difficult to control & supported by the action of the parents who being compelled to send the children to school & paying nothing for it, feel in their right to say plainly that they shall not be touched. Thus discipline becomes difficult. At one time the Board forbade corporal punishment except at hands of head master & the consequence was that the children pushed the under masters to distraction. And so naughtiness was increased & irregular & cruel methods of punishment were adopted. Now the under master may be authorised by the head master & things are better again

Charity.

but the influence of 'free compulsory education' has not been good as to behaviour.

Not much is given - It chiefly takes the form of dinners to the poor children. These are organised at his school all through the winter & are needed. Mr Bulivant has to do with this.

Local Government

No complaint to make.

Amusements

Practically none - the new park much valued & the band a great attraction - 5000 or 6000 people will be gathered together by it

Social Condition

There is no prostitution - I did not ask about crime but gathered that the social condition is simple working class - not much amiss except drink -

Mr Conn seemed to me rather disillusioned than pessimistic - sees clearly in a matter of fact light

L. Williams. Bd School Headmaster

a liberal conservative.

The progress of labour representation

Direct employment.

Williams v Crooks.

Miscell. 10.11.12

May 11th 8 Woodstock Road. Poplar. G.H.D.

L. Williams. Head master of Broad St. Bd. School Ratcliffe. Cost more to build than any Bd. School in the East of London. Member of the Board of Works. Elected vestryman for Poplar & sent up by his vestry a member of Bd. of Works which is composed of men from Poplar Bow & Bromley. He is a "Progressive" elected by the Conservatives. Labour strongly represented & it will be more so.

Vestry electors are callous; will not vote: in consequence labour men are more & more elected because they canvass their electors.

Much direct employment. First job done in this way was done so badly that it has now to be done again.

Is against direct employment. So many jobs put into jobs. Nobody's interest to do the work cheaply.

Does not approve of the working men on the Board. Their men say bluntly & openly 'I vote for the work because it makes work for the working man'. The working man does not have to pay for it.

Crooks has only been seen on the Bd. of Works once or twice. Says he is an honest man tho' he disagrees with his ideas.

The effect of working men paying no direct rates.

The social descent of Poplar.

Improvement of the working-class.

Drink the curse.

Working men pay no rates directly. Landlords are encouraged to pay for their tenants & allowed a 10% remission for so doing, & do so.
Rents have gone ~~down~~ gradually for the last 10 yrs in Poplar so the landlord has got nothing out of the increase of rent.

Poplar is going down. The average is as high as ever. but there is no local aristocracy at least it is leaving. The 'George Green' middle class school feels it very much. In the E Indian Rd. no apartments were let 10 yrs. ago. Now there are great many. Better class is leaving Poplar & going to Ilford & Forest Gate - semi-rural districts.

The working class on the other hand has improved in character. More self respect. Briar pipes used instead of 'cutties'. More care about boxes. Improvement due much to trade union spirit (says he is sorry to admit this). Much good done by the children. The schools have done a great work.

Drink is the curse. Is no better nor worse. Same amount of drunkenness as ever. Education has no effect on it. Has no opinion about women drunkenness in Poplar but at midday in Ratcliffe & St. George's the least he notices a man

Women in Public Houses.

Betting & Gambling on the increase.

Amusements. Iron Hall let for entertainments twice a week on the average.

Books read by working men.

Church Work.

more than men in public houses.

Betting & gambling have increased enormously. Fearful among the clerks in the City. Heard it said 90% of the working men lay their shillings. Tipos for the week largely sold in Crisp Street. Schools responsible for men & boys knowing how to read & calculate which makes betting more easy than formerly.

Queen's Music Hall - No regular system of amusement. Saturdays 1d popular concerts in winter very well attended. Bands 3 days a week: LCC & Police. Sacred music Sundays - chairs for ½d. for May - Sep. i.e. 5 months: very full towards the end of the season. Have 200 chairs there. These are not all used till towards the end of time.

Books most commonly read by the working men.

Bibles. Prayer books. Bunyan Pilgrim Progress. Robinson Crusoe. Wide Wide World. Not 6 in Poplar who read Political Economy. Very few books in use in homes except religious manuals by which the poor set great store. The Library very well patronised.

English Church working harder than any time he remembers. (has been a resident 37 yrs. is now 41) Churches better attended etc. The whole of them work. He attends the

Poor people love shows not doctrine

Poor-law Relief.

& as a general rule it is therefore safer to refuse out-door relief

Irish in Poplar.

the Parish Church. Rev. A. Chandler an exceedingly nice man but too high for him. The High Church party are the hardest workers. The Poor are attracted by shows & processions. Has thought much about the religious question.
By far the most respectable congregation is the Wesleyan congregation. Poplar Church congregation wd. not man for man even half as much as the Wesleyan congregation: the Anglicans are getting at the poorer classes. Poor people but care for doctrine.
Secularists have no meeting place exc at Victoria Park.
Poplar, Bow & Bromley form one Board for the Union.
Relief given by committees. One for each district.
Bromley is far the most lax in out-door relief.
He is not against out-door relief on principle but finds it very hard to discriminate between worthy & unworthy.
People in workhouse are very well treated; probably no union where people are better housed, clothed & fed.
Rates gone up considerably but money well spent.
Mr. Villiers is not a guardian.
Great Number of Irish in Poplar. Not so many slums as in Dublin Ratcliff St George or Whitechapel. Woolmore St has been cleared out & model dwellings instead. That used to be the worst district.

Taking the pledge.

The Poplar Police

The worst areas in Poplar.

The Wesleyans.

Early marriages

The Position of Mrs Williams

Hundreds sign the pledge every year but dont keep it long. ~~As~~

Police are a ~~body~~ very loyal & do their duty with great tact & discretion.

Nonconformists in poplar are ~~strong~~. Big RC. church. Father Kew-
-less. not particularly active but somehow always manages to
have a good congregation.
Sophia St. Rook St. Anne St. areas. the worst spots.
Large number of Irish Roman Catholics.
Wesleyans have a round of services but dont seem to
work among the the poor. They have a congregation &
do not go outside them.

Early marriages not so common. But "there is more sin among young
men." Lower classes have begun to think about keeping
their families down by artificial means. But early marriages
will always be common because labourers earn as much at 21
as ever they will.

Mrs Williams had provided an excellent tea but took no part in it
herself, leaving the room as soon as she had brought it up. When any
thing was wanted Mr W rang the bell answered by Mrs W. "My
darling a little more milk." or a second time "My dearest just
turn up that paper of mine."

H. Rowlatt. Poplar free Library.

Nature of books in stock

The Lending Department.

CP (2)

G.H.D.

May 10.

H. Rowlatt. Librarian of the Poplar free Library. on an introduction from the younger Dr. Corner.

Library opened in 1894.
Average attendance over 1000 per day.
Number of volumes in stock March 1897.

History & Biography.	1969
Voyages, Travels, Geog.	686
Sciences, arts, trades, manufs.	2156
Theology & Philosophy	489
Poetry & Drama	361
Collected Works & Miscell	916
Periodical Literature	374
Encyclopedias, Dictionaries	318
Prose. Fiction & juvenile Lit.	3867
	11,136

Fiction represents over 60% of the Books taken out.
In the Lending Dept. 75068 volumes have been issued for home reading

Deceptiveness of figures

Technical manuals.

Sunday opening a failure

Papers taken in

Branch library in Isle of Dogs.

Mr. Rowlatt ~~keeps~~ has published no record of the nature of the books taken out. Warned me of the deceptiveness of figures. Said that over 60% were novels.

Library is especially strong in technical manuals re shipping & metals which are the chief trades of the district.

Sunday opening a failure. They tried for 3 winter months but hardly anyone came. 'Those who read like a quiet Sunday at home.'

They take in also.

Daily & Evening papers	16.
Triweekly.	1
Biweekly	2
Weekly	68
Monthly	56
Quarterly	3
Time tables	16.

At his instigation they opened a branch at the Isle of Dogs - great success - average attendance 100 per evening - No amusements in the Isle of Dogs but the Public House.

Mr R. very glad to help any further - was formerly a librarian at Kensington & before that in a semi public library

library in Leeds. Came to the East End expecting to find every
men a savage. Agreeably surprised to the contrary.
Says there are many in Kensington who look on the
whole of the East as a heathen land.

Gave ~~list~~ vouchers of books taken out for 2 representative
days of winter & summer.

H. R. Berge. Board School Head master.

His position in life.

The Executive body of Trustees of Poplar.

Genial air of Poplar.

Character of Inhabitants

May 14th

Miscell. 10.11.12 5

(2)

G. H. S.

H. R. Berge. 4 Woodstock Road. Poplar.
Head master of the St Bernards Rd. Board School. Overseer for Poplar. Deputy ruling Councillor of the Primrose League. Churchwarden of St Mathias Church (formerly the Chapel of the East India Co). Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Trustees who has formerly everything before the Police acts + Local Govt acts came into force, and little remains except to raise the rates for others to spend. Every one of the trustees (all these rated at over £24 per year) + 10 elected trustees is a sort of overseer. Member of District Bd of Works. Voting man. (Public Libraries + Baths + elect members to Bd of Works).

Genial air about Poplar. 'Sailor like breeze'. Very different even to Bow. Much less exclusiveness than in Bow. Curates remark this who have had experience elsewhere. Very little of the loafing element in the Poplar men. Much better labouring class now. owing to greater regularity at the docks. Formerly dockers were broken down failures now they are a regular work

Improvement in Dock Labourers.

Marriage

Plenty of work for women.

Industries round about St Leonards' Road.

Poor Streets

working class. They are not the same men as before. The farm men have been crowded out.

Bible class girls & boys but many very early – about 23 or 24. Girls marry very nearly as old as the boys. Girls find little employment easily in Poplar. Some go as ~~lie~~ Bill Hands in the city. Domestic service is the best opening for them but they don't think so. Shirt & Children's clothing factories here give employment to a great number.

St Leonards Rd. district is where H.R.B. teaches. Poor part. Bells match factory & Spratts biscuits & the far famed Cake Company have all helped along Bromley. Sir Edward Currie's Distillery leaving Bromley was a great blow to the district. Convinced that it was wrong to distil, so he gave it up at a great loss to himself. Now used as the Sun flour mills.

At one time Sir E. Currie paid over ½ million pounds duty on the spirits he manufactured there. District is really better now than before. But at the time great suffering was caused. The great oil wharves are now along the Bow Creek. Also a new industry.

The Poorest streets in St Leonards Rd. district are. Bartlett St. Prospect Place & just where it bends in N Bromley.

Sanitation in Poplar.

Morality

The religion of Poplar.

Migration to Canning Town.

The Orchard House.

Between the Railway & the Cut is the worst part.

Sanitation in Poplar extremely good. Housing good. Blocks of dwellings - Some need live in a slum. Does not himself approve of dwellings. 1000 families in these dwellings. Are hoping much from the opening of the Blackwall tunnel.

Very little immorality to complain of. Mrs B. says it is 'remarkably free'

All Saints Parish Church. Rev. A. Chandler. very hard-working man. High Church man which goes against him a little because Poplar is not at heart high church. He (Chandler) mixes with the labour man. Fancies himself a Socialist but 'isn't really'. Has crowded Sunday afternoons, Canon Shuttleworth, Father Ignatius, many working men. Chandler appeals more to the working man than to the upper classes.

Great deal of the rougher element has left Poplar for Canning Town. 'Real old specimens of the Docker type have gone over there.

Rev. A Dalton who was at All Hallows did a great work. Especially among young people. Used to have services in the Orchard House. population now of Dock constables, Dock

Church Work.

Temperance.

Absentee manufacturers

Church Work.

Dock Labourers & factory hands. Very poor district.
St Matthias the oldest church. Rev. C. Neil. a well known Bible commentator "quite a literary man."
Almost every church has its Band of Hope in Poplar. Tradition says that the pillars of St Matthias church are masts & spars of ships from the Spanish Armada. Certainly they have been masts & were built up about that date.
In two weeks a Dissenting place raised £300 by a bazaar & the church raised £250..
all the manufacturers live away. This is the great complaint of Poplar.
Rev. Elliot St Stephens Poplar. supports a Boys home, a poor man, kind hearted, begs round the neighbourhood for his boys.
St Frideswides formerly held by Rev. J. Addams. now by Carroll. much like Chandler. 'quite a ritualist'. "But I believe he gets a congregation!" Anyhow all the very poorest go there.
Roman Catholic Ch. Father Lawless. do a good work among the Irish RCs.
Wesleyan Chapel. E I Rd Dr Nicholson. Do a good work. 'Don't set the Thames on fire'.

Industrial changes in Poplar.

Rev. Austen. United Methodist Bath St. Chapel. E.S. dock Road.
Rev. McQueen. very well spoken of

The Industries in Poplar have changed much. Formerly shipbuilding & Dockers, now jam, oil, etc. Men's work has left but there is more women's work than ever.

Mr Berge a cheery man. Had tea with him, his wife & son down stairs. He addressed his wife continually as 'dearest'. She, the daughter of a shipbuilder who formerly lived at the extreme end of the Orchard House mentioned above.

Very glad to give any further help or information.

May 21st.

Parish notes 11/2

(2)

Interview with Miss Price, 323 West Ferry Road.

Miss Price I have seen twice, the first time with Mrs. On neither occasion has there been a formal interview; on the first occasion Mrs and I went to lunch and afterwards assisted in waiting at the Factory girls' dinner in the Coffee Tavern; the second time I went to tea and afterwards spent about an hour and a half in the Factory girls' Club.

Miss Price is a bright, cheery, and eminently sensible little woman. She has been working in the Island for seven years, at first with Mr Kite and Mr Mackenzie, and since their departure unattached. She is a keen high churchwoman and lays great stress on the religious side of her work; none of the work must be entirely secular: efforts must be made to get all to the church or to bible classes; it is a mistake

to attempt to carry on such work on purely secular lines. At the same time I could see no signs of any white throbbing religion upon the girls during my two visits. There was no suspicion of goody-goodiness.

The branches of the work consist of:-
(1) A Club for young girls meeting twice a week with about 60 members.
(2). A Club for Factory Girls, twice a week. (I don't know the exact number: about 25 were there the night attended).
(3). A Club for rough boys meeting on Saturdays.
(4). A Mothers' Meeting.
(5). Provident Bank.
(6). The Coffee Tavern, started only last year.

These are all held in a building of considerable dimensions in the West Ferry Road. In the front is the Coffee Tavern, over which Miss Price and two other ladies live; at the

A considerable number brought soup, & marmalade was often taken instead of butter. A good many kinds of cakes also sold.

back is the club room, a barn like structure, long and narrow.

On the day of our visit at the Dinner hour the two small dining rooms appeared to be full with some 30 girls; but it was on Monday, the Sunday day, and as a rule some of them have to dine in the stairs and in the kitchen. The majority of the girls brought meat or fish of some sort with them, corned beef, bloaters etc, and bought bread and butter, rice pudding, and tea. Miss Price told me that when the tavern was first opened it was almost impossible to get them to eat wholesome food: they would have nothing but cake, ~~cheese~~ cheesecakes and pastry. Owing chiefly to their food they all looked pasty and anaemic. New habits have effected a great change in their appearance. With one or two exceptions they now certainly looked wonderfully healthy.

After dinner we adjourned to the club room for half an hour; here there was singing and dancing.

After my evening visit to the Girls' Club the girls for the most part sat about talking, though some sewed. Miss Price tells me that they will not play games. Some of them after much coaxing have induced to sing. The behaviour of all was quiet and orderly. Both in the Coffee Tavern and the Club the girls have of the regular factory type, though much more decent in their behaviour and more soberly dressed. They are evidently devoted to Miss Price, whose manner to them is ~~not~~ excellent.

Miss Price now always has one girl in the house, whom she trains as a servant. For some time - with the idea of economizing and being able to spend more on the poor - she had no servant: but her poor neighbours would insist on helping her in her housework and refused to take any compensation. ("Fancy you, Miss, a lady, blacking your own grate! My Liza shall come in and do it for you every day"). But she arrived at the conclusion

that it was unwise to do this work when there was other work which there was no one else to do; so now she always has a girl on the premises. Miss Price has a theory that as a rule factory work is better for girls of the lowest class than service; she thinks that an enormous proportion of fallen women come from among servants.

Miss Giles, one of Miss Price's co-workers, told me a curious story illustrating the feeling of this class on the question of death. One of the girls was dying; her friends at in the club who now, told that there was no hope of her recovery clubbed together before her death to buy a ~~wreath~~ wreath for her coffin; they were exceedingly anxious that she should live long enough to see it and by permission of the doctor went with it in a body to her room. She was immensely pleased and touched.

Further particulars as to Miss Price's work

will be found in her Report. Altogether I should say she is doing admirable work in a a thoroughly wise and practical manner. For she said the mainspring of her work is "love, love for Christ and those who are made in his image".

Called on Mrs Price on the following afternoon after interview with Baxter. Got there a little before 6, & teaing going to which we were invited. Mrs Price had been busy, oiling the floor I think, of one of her rooms, but the conversation turned on dress & the necessity of never looking untidy or careless in these matters. Mrs Price herself avoids this outright she does oil her floors & put on a white apron when she goes down to serve in the coffee-room. She told a story of Mrs Barry, who is coming down to work in the new ladies Settlement. When she first appeared in the board she was decidedly ill-dressed, & the girls noticed it & liked it. After a few months, during which she had been working in some other poor district, the club-girls

were invited to meet Mr Barry at some evening function. Meanwhile her habits as regards dress seem to have changed, & when the girls came back they were fun of it: "Oh, Mr Price! how Mr Barry has changed! She looks more like <u>one of us</u>"! Mr Price's firm conviction of the necessity of combining religious with the secular work was again illustrated by her reference to the New Ladies Settlement. She would be unable to live there, or to work with them entirely as they were "secular" in some of their work. By this she meant that the religious element would not be always introduced, & made a part of every enterprise. The Settlement in question is a branch of St Margaret's House, Bow, works closely with Oxford House, in Bethnal Green, & was, in fact, so closely connected with the work of the Church of England. Mr Price's temporary Mission Chapel is on present in ~~the~~ a room of the future Settlement, & they are building a chapel for it on the present market. But in spite of the strength of her convictions, there is no obtrusiveness in the method of conduct of the Bible-reading. The coffee-stall, for instance, is necessarily an entirely secular & humanitarian institution!

May 24th.

Miscell
10.11.12
13

(2)

Interview with Mr Radford Sharpe, Sec. of Stepney C.O.S., Burdett Road.

Mr Sharpe has been in the district five years. He is a man of about 35. He gives the impression of being a good organiser and man of business, but rather hard and narrow in his opinions. He looks at everything from the C.O. point of view much more so I should say than Lyttelton or Hartley.

Mr Sharpe's committee only covers Limehouse in this district and the large part of the interview which applies specifically to Stepney I have not repeated here.

The men who get on the Local bodies are a very poor lot ~~of men~~: there is a great deal of log-rolling and jobbery of a sort: a tobacconist guardian being made to supply the tobacco for the workhouse the contract was made out in the name of his shopman: a contractor on the Poor

Poor Law Administration

Police

secures the contract for his son etc. The working class members are no worse than the old lot, some of them distinctly better, but the general moral tone is very low.

The policy in this Union has hitherto been very strict: but here as elsewhere the cry for "a judicious extension of out relief" is spreading: so far there is no great change; but in out relief as in other things it is necessary to create a demand: people don't ask for it of their own accord: they have to be educated up to it. At a Guardians' meeting this year taken at random out of 30 applications only one was for out-relief.

The Guardians are distinctly less friendly with the C.O.S. than they were.

The police are too rough and brutal in their treatment of the poor: they knock them about and use too much strong language.

Mr. S. objects to the administration of the

Drink

Education.

Religion.

Poor Rand at the Police Court: there is too much patronage about it.

Still there is a considerable improvement. Spurdon is very strong on temperance. But the Cam St. district is still terribly drunken.

The Head Masters of the Board Schools in the district are for the most part good men, especially perhaps Gile at Romas St. Flack at Northey St. and Norton at Cayley St., but as a rule they don't know much of their children out of school. It was like knitwater (the Row lodge) is quite an exception.

Mr S. warned me that he was an agnostic, and perhaps of rather an aggressive type.

In spite of all their efforts he thinks the influence of the religious bodies is not increasing, and chiefly because their foundations are based on sand. As long as they appeal to more non reasoning with the advance of thought they can do no permanent

good. The best work is done in the Voluntary Schools, which certainly turn out a better behaved and more respectable class of children than the Board Schools.

Now to the ~~R.~~ men in the district individually:-

Gordon:- is a very sensible man, doing good work: gets hold of good workers: is a successful preacher: on good terms with R.C's and other bodies. Does ~~even~~ he lays too much stress on "the Church": in the matter of relief his decision is always influenced by the fact whether or not the applicant is a churchman.

Hope:- rather a poor creature: shows his difficult cases on to her and leaves them.

Haden, St John's:- keeps very much within her own borders: is a hard worker and has worked up his district well: keen on temperance work: has a low standard of relief.

(Continued on Page 161)

George Maddocks. Head Master

Streets from which his children are drawn.

Numbers in the school.

Childrens Parents.

Many of the boys mothers take in work from Abbott & Anderson, Webb both india rubber.
Occasionally a new boys stays away to help his mother 'But he does not do it twice'.

Miscell: 10.11.12
7

~~60~~ (2)
G.H.D.

May 25th

Mr George Maddock. Farrance Street School.
Head Master. Sturdy. Middle height. Brisk. White hair & beard.
Children drawn from immediate neighbourhood.
Have 5 from over the border ie Cannington & Stratford. The chief streets from which his boys come are Stainsby Rd. Hind St. Farrance St. Pelling St. Suffolk St. Sussex St. Canton St. Gough St.

360 boys.
360. Girls. } roughly speaking 1200
468. infants } exactly 1188.

Yesterday he went round certain standards to find out the Children of Shopkeepers. 32. Status of the
Mechanics 91. childrens parents.
Labourers 17.
Clerks 7
Sailors 5
Milkmen 3
Water Co. 3
158

No Irish in the school.

Mr. Maddocks own experience.

Full attendance but no perfect week.

158 ff.
Lightermen 9.
Policemen 2.
Timekeeper 1.
Carrier 1. = 171

These ~~class~~ are children in standards 3 – x 7.
r is a fair specimen of the class of child attending the school.

Not an Irish boy in the place but several Scotch & several Germans.

Mr. Maddock's own experience in teaching is as follows
Left college in 1862. 2 yrs in North of Eng. as as assistant master.
then 17 years at Denominational School St Paul's, Bow Common.
15 yrs last January in Farrance St. Board school.
Just now there are 339 boys on the register.
attendance 339.

Never a perfect week
Rumor in neighbourhood that they must not stay

Punctuality

Classes now & formerly living in the District.

Drink.

After careers of boys.

away. Boys come at midnight on New Year's Eve to be the first in school on New Years day. The boy first in has his name painted on a board.

Difficulty in stating this spirit but, once started, "like smallpox it grows". Now every boy in the place is keen & anxious to have a perfect week.

Never takes a boy without first seeing both parents or some responsible person. To these he explains the conditions on which he accepts children.

Better class of people moving away. Was discussing this with the chemists son who agreed. Now 2 families in some houses in Bardett Rd. Such a thing was unheard of before.

Drink. Cotthall St. opp. Pearce's factory has a bad name. The men in the Chemical works drink heavily.

After careers. of boys. very few become mechanics mostly office or errand boys. Several in Navy & navy.

Made an exact return to the School Board of those leaving & their careers. for one year after.

One year very much like another in a school.

Good done by Board Schools.

No motions with Church Schools.

Ignorance of outside matters

Roman Catholics

Mission Hall in Kerby St. attended by 15 or 20 boys. connected with the Board. Mr. M is a lean Church man & every monday asks his (school) children about the Sundays sermons.

Board Schools have done an immense amount of good. Punctuality, cleanliness, order. All these are taught besides lessons & must have good effect.

Never a row in with the ~~Board~~ Church Schools.

Mr. Forster never meant Bd. Schools to be for the well-to-do. He wanted them to supplement not to supplant the voluntary school. But the tendency has been to supplant them.

Knows nothing about other schools or even about the girls & infants in this school: has plenty to do without.

Though his boys are regular. M & M is still more so. He opened here in 1882. In Sep. of this year had diphtheria: since then has only been absent for the burial of his father, mother & brother. Is always the first in school & the last out.

Have had RCs but has none now. One boy was taken away because of a complaint from the RCs but

Amusements

Has a class above the Poorest.

Punishment.

he was so badly taught that his mother came & begged Mr. M to take him back again which he did.

Majority of children play in the street. They have a certain amount of cricket with a soft ball in the playground

Swimming Club for 20 or so boys who are taken by teacher to Poplar Baths. once (?) every week.

Has never seen any gambling or pitch & toss in the playground. Have cricket there with a soft ball.

Makes a great point of scripture.

Poorest he thinks most go to Alton St. Board School Here he has a class above the poorest.

Punishment, the cane. Shot & sharp. Nothing ridiculous like making boys hold their slates over their heads or holding their hands out or wearing dunces caps.

Struck by the fact that a man of his Headmaster school experience shd. know so little of his boys out of school or of the neighbourhood from which they were drawn Mr. M is a brisk grey haired & grey bearded man whose motto he said was 'Whatever thy hand findeth to do, do it with all thy might. He lives himself at Forest Gate & every evening digs in his garden until dark.

F. M. Corner. M.D

The Orchard House.

Parish Notes
11
11

(2)

S.H.D.

May 26th

Dr. F. M. Corner. M.D. The Manor House. E. India Dock Road.

Mr. Corner brought in a Mrs Leach who is Manager of the Thames Galvanized Iron Works in the Orchard House

In the Orchard House. Children now as naked footed as ever only 200 chn at the school. Bd. School there has been a grand thing for them. Has only been there 6 months. The old school was there of no accnt Mrs Leach has worked there for 20 yrs. The place tenanted by the labouring class. employed locally.

None wd. live there unless obliged. Much crowding exists. Majority dont sleep there. no houses to be got. Rents from ~~[illegible]~~ 4/- to 9/- per week. As much crowding as possible. 4/6. per wk wd be for 2 rooms. Rough lot. nothing to elevate them. Nothing to counteract the Public Houses. No way to get out of the place without passing Pub. Landlord of the Crown not a bad man. Alkellors have a Mission there: do a lot of good but are frightfully imposed upon.

Drink

Shut the Public Houses.

Model Dwellings.

Want of Amusements

Originally Glass Works (failed, strike, foreign compet.) used to cover half the place. Works himself for the Galvanised. Iron works built partly on site of old glass works. Its men have improved. Has known 2 or 3 lodge actually through drink. Managers must peg away. Some don't care. He does, would rather have a steady man at 30/- than a [Small drunkard at 20/-] Labourers 21/- to 30/- per week. Not much piece work. No particular seasons. The oil cake works are busy in winter.

Sh. be a bridge over to Canning Town. That would relieve the orchard house.

Both Comm & Secd wd. shut the public houses. Men that live opposite the work are generally those that arrive the latest. is strongly in favour of distributing the working man. don't let him live near his work.

Does not much believe in Dwellings though they are better than the slums.

Almost total ~~absence~~ absence of means of amusement. The only thing is a 'Judge & Jury' business of a Sunday night at Pubs. 'a great evil' causes men to lose time in the morning. It is a sort of free & easy smoking concert.

Hours when men drink too much.

Dingy Temperance places.

Drink & women.

The excess of liquor consumed is drunk between 10 & 12.30
During these hours men demoralise themselves & others the most. They are
lost the next day.
The extra ½ hour to pubs given by a Conservative govt.
has been a great evil. Vile stuff served. It is made
by the publican & the brewer. So much wrung out of the
publican that he must make a profit somehow.
There is no clean Temperance place. Cocoa tried to start a lane
light, good coffee etc. No good. What the people want
is quantity. Leach said finance these places instead
of throwing it to the hangers-on. Pubs infinitely cleaner
than Coffee houses. Philanthropists shd. create the taste for good coffee.
Mrs Ricardo wd. give a lot of information. She is missioner
in the Orchard House.

Lot of drink among women. Knows two 'Beastly drunkards': one
married the respectable man earning 40/. The other
married a good man. Drunk, men died, married again
good man, made him a drunkard.

Leach believes in inebriate homes. Short terms of little use.
Knows of a regenerate case. Never left, leaving me
with Dr Cooper.

Why men drink

Give them gymnasia

Effect of athletic clubs.

More means of amusement wanted

The worst streets in Poplar.

Character of Father Lawless.

Why do people drink? Man a social animal, must have society. Pubs give it him. Why shd. a rich man not undertake the orchard St. A small spot, circumscribed where he could see all the good he was doing.

What the men like is gymnasium, skill & strength attract them. Milwall Club has done good. Corner wd. give them gymnasia & have down skilled instructors to teach & perform.

Effect of cricket & football on the Salvaged Iron works was greatly to increase the soberness, giving an excuse to go to the pub. Men want more amusement. Only the Pub gives it them.

Teetotallers are sluggish as a class, they are not genial, with the exception of Sir E. Lawson. You want some cheery blue ribboners to set things going.

Few RCs in Orchard St. Here Mr Leach left leaving me alone with Dr Corner.

Rook St. Sophia St. nearly all RCs | English & Scotch
Burford Ct. Robin Hood lane. | labourers wont live
are the worst & poorest streets | with them.

Irish shamefully neglected by the priests.

Father Lawless. a coarse looking low fellow. given up to comfortable living & self indulgence. "You can see it in his face." But he has a great

power

Other religious agencies

Marriages

Factory girls

Domestic service

Mrs. Besant.

of quelling a disturbance, all priests have. Row stopped priest goes, row recommences.

Mansfield House doing good: so are Salvation Army who touch the very poor more than any other movement.

Too many marry too young: but worst of all they marry without means. The Church wd. give the returns of the actual ages. Many marry at 18 (men). Women at the same age who dont even know how to sweep a room. Drs. lady to factory employment

Girls dont like going to service. They go to factories. Many aim for ABC appointments. Oh is far better than factory work for them.

Good feature of ladies settling in these localities who get good places for the girls here. Their service succeeds. Great demand for servants. Average about 8/- per week in summer. Jam, pickles, matches, white lead works (laying the beds - separating powder. wear (all are women)

Mrs Besant did a good work. So is a lady there in the Isle of Dogs. On special holidays factory girls

Good effects of the bicycle.

Popular during 40 years.

Green
Gainsford } remain

Scott Russell
Green
Wigram
Lumsden
Westwood
Dudgeon } These were all the big wooden ship builders in Poplar. Bringing prosperity now all except Green have gone

drink - rough play. They have nothing else to do. It is sad to see them. If only they had some amusements to go to.

Lord Pelhecin & Parsons complain that the bicycle has taken away their customers. The bicycle has done a good work in giving a new interest & in getting men away.

Dr. Cameron has been here 40 years.

Things are both better & worse.

The skilled artisan of 30 yrs ago; shipwrights etc are gone - Shipbuilding (wooden) has left & with ~~this~~ it shipwrights, caulkers, sailmakers.

Great benefit from greater permanency at the Docks. Permanent hands & the A B & C class he believes are free labourers (ie non-unionists). Certain firms have yielded to the union eg. A Hill at Thames iron works. but he (Hill) wd like to shift his men out of reach of the agitators so he told Dr Cornes.

There is a better state of things amongst a number & a worse state among a number. 'The worsement is entirely to the increase of the drinking habit'.

The skilled men have died out. Now there are many small industries.

The sweat, oil, etc women work is a new departure

Womens work.

Small industries for men.

Dock strike.

Cheap food.

Collecting Banks.

Difference between boys & girls.

School Banks.

attended with a lot of evil. Sandy fairy & cakes instead
of good clothing & food. They earn supplementary wages for their families & keep
them at home. Still together in small rooms. Protest
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Dr. Conner said that the School Board had given out some years ago an
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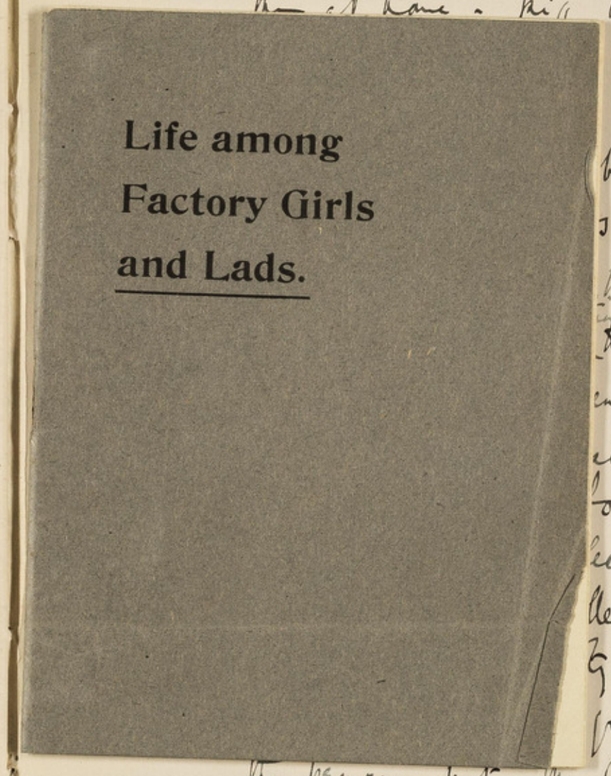

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Life among Factory Girls and Lads.

"THE WELCOME,"

MILLWALL, E.

Committee.

Mrs. BROWN, 2, Amen Court, E.
Miss M. T. LANGLANDS, 14, Argyle Square, W. C.

Lady-in-Charge.

Miss JEAN PRICE,
"The Welcome,"
333, West Ferry Road,
Millwall, E.

Nearest Station:—West India Dock. Little omnibus outside takes visitors within five minutes' walk.

Girls' Dinner Hour - - 1 to 2 p.m.
Boys' Club, Saturdays, 7 to 9 p.m.

Womens work.

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The Welcome Institute,

333, WEST FERRY ROAD, MILLWALL, E.

WANTED £50. £30 for outstanding Debts; £20 for Christmas Teas, Rent of the Welcome, Gas and Rates of Club Room.

AS it is nearly fourteen months since we started our Coffee Tavern for Factory Girls, we find that many kind subscribers expect an account of the work; so we are sending a short paper now instead of waiting till Christmas for the yearly report.

The large number of girls who have come in for dinner, and tea when working overtime, has far exceeded our expectations. For three months after Christmas we were very slack owing to there being little work in the jam factory, where most of our girls come from, but all through the summer crowds poured in at dinner time; more than we can conveniently

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accommodatate, and now that we are obliged to let the girls sit on the stairs and in the passages, it has become a very serious question, What can we do? We have no other room to spare, and yet it seems better to give up anything rather than turn them into the public house, as the one place where they are welcome. We have only lately been told by the girls, that at 1 p.m. there is a general rush for the Welcome, and some of the late comers, seeing no room, retire to the public houses for their dinners, after casting longing and envious looks in here. However it has just been given out that room will be found somewhere, rather than have this happen again. Some of our readers will perhaps wonder how we managed this time last year. Well, we had another house where two, if not three ladies lived, but finding subscriptions came in slowly, and the business account at the bank was "nil," we were obliged to give up the house, and reduce the number of our workers. Since then our regular staff has consisted of only three resident ladies and two servants; this has again been reduced to two ladies.

We do most earnestly appeal for funds to enable us to have a larger *regular* staff, so that we can accommodate the overflow in the Club Room or elsewhere. These girls are not like men; they must have someone always in the room with them, and though they have improved in manners, dress, and cleanliness since they first came, and those who sit in the shop are very quiet, yet, it must be remembered that the new ones have to be civilised, as at first they make a great noise and sometimes are unruly. I expect some of our readers will say, if such crowds come in it should be self-supporting;—everyone who has had no practical experience in Coffee Tavern work would say the same, but those who have tried it know that it cannot be so while it is only for girls. Boys are only allowed in at certain times (more of that hereafter). As a rule we take on an average 1¾d. per head, though some only spend ½d. as they bring their own food. Threepence is considered the most that a factory girl should spend on her dinner. In fact this is the regulation money given by mothers when they do not send a meal from home. Then we give as much as we can for

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the money, all is good, wholesome food, and the profits are small, but with careful management, we believe, when we are busy, they pay for the gas, and part of the cook's wages, but not for the work and rent.

People who have had many years experience in the business tell us that even in this small place, if we could open at 5.30 a.m. and allow anyone to come in during the day (except from 1 to 2 p.m.) it would be entirely self-supporting. But it is quite impossible to do this while the lady-in-charge is the head of four different Clubs for girls, a Boys' Football Club, and Mothers' Meetings, besides being housekeeper, secretary and treasurer for the Coffee Tavern.

We trust that after Christmas we shall be able to get Church Workers to undertake the business, whose evenings will not be entirely engaged with Clubs, and in the meantime we must do the best we can to keep the Classes and Coffee Tavern open for our girls and boys. Another reason why it cannot be self-supporting is that we not only had to learn our business, but we had to teach our girls what to eat. This year has taught us much about the un-

wholesome food of the poor, and, as a doctor one day said, that instead of being surprised that so many girls die in Consumption, he wondered that so many escaped, as their food (especially ~~that~~ of those without mothers) is most unwholesome.

When we first opened they bought chiefly tinned salmon, rabbit, and corned beef, very cheap cake and unwholesome pastry; of this latter they would buy large quantities, but we have trained them by degrees to eat good soup and stew thickened with pearl barley, rice or haricot beans; tapioca, maccaroni, baked and boiled rice, cornflour blancmanges (of these last we make from 70 to 100 per week), and bread and syrup, instead of the cheap pastry, which we have entirely done away with as we find there is no demand for it.

Many sad cases have come before us of girls having insufficient food. One who was thin and always shabby would frequently ask for a thick slice "'Cause I'm 'ungry." We discovered that she was nineteen years old, had two children and her husband was out of work, so she had to support four people with her small wages. Another, all through the win-

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ter would bring her own bread, with a tiny piece of butter, and would buy 1d. worth of rabbit or corned beef, this, with a glass of cold water, was her dinner,—and yet these girls never beg. One day a lady whispered "that girl has had nothing to eat." When we enquired she said "Yes, thank you, I had some bread." We were told of one, whom we knew as having a bad home, walking about the East Ferry Road all the dinner hour with no food; certainly she looked starved, but unfortunately she was dismissed suddenly and we lost sight of her. We frequently hear of many who go to a stall and have a ½d. cup of tea and ½d. worth of bread.

How do they spend their money then? Many only have 6/- or 7/- a week, and they have an hour's walk here and back every day, which must wear out their boots terribly, and as they work from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. regularly, and for weeks at a time they are obliged to work till 9 or even 11 o'clock, they have no time for needlework, so that they are obliged to buy their clothing ready made.

People constantly say that it is impossible for an employer to work his girls such long

hours, as it is not allowed. Unfortunately it is, if they work on fruit or fish. We are told the law is so uncertain. On page 181 of "The Law relating to Factories and Workshops," we find "Nothing in the principal Act as amended by this Act shall apply to the process of cleaning and preparing fruit on the arrival at a factory or workshop during the months of June, July, August and September. Again, section 100 of Act 1878, (page 146 of same book): "Nothing in this Act shall extend to the process of gutting, salting, and packing fish immediately upon its arrival in the fishing boats. Therefore an employer may keep girls of any age up till 10, 11, or in fact any hour. We have heard of a factory where they were worked until 5 a.m. on Sunday morning. Many girls (some only 14 years old) have to walk home late at night, and are sometimes stopped or chased by foreigners off the ships. People think that working girls are so well looked after now, but there are sad exceptions, and the sooner those working on fruit and fish are under the Factory Act the better. A doctor who attends many of them, said he wondered

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that any law allowed young persons to work from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. standing, with only one hour for dinner. "What do you think of keeping them until 10 or 11 p.m.?" The answer was:—"*No* girl can stand it for long."

Many thoroughly good Christian people tell us that the fish and fruit would spoil, and the employers must be considered. In short, the employers' pockets come before the lives of our girls and the mothers of the next generation. Women are plentiful, factory girls are rough and accustomed to it, and if they don't like it why don't they go to service? and they need not work over unless they like. So they quiet their consciences and let the matter rest. It is quite true that fresh fish and ripe fruit spoil quickly, but there are employers who manage without this excessive overtime; year after year they have women and girls only too ready and thankful to earn a little extra money; and when fish or fruit are expected in, a crowd of these anxious, hard-working people will be ready. Many who could not go regularly all the year round can manage to go in the busy time, and we believe that some families have been kept

from starvation through the mother getting work as a casual hand in the fruit or fish season. One of our best employers once told us that any master who could work his girls for three weeks, night after night, stood in his own light, as it was impossible to get the right amount of work out of them.

It is quite true that our girls are accustomed to hard work, they do not tronble the ratepayers, they would rather die at their post than receive parish relief. It is a remarkable thing that in two workhouses, where the Women's Industrial Council sent to find out the former trades of the inmates, there was only one factory girl. Again, these are not the girls who fill our refuges, penitentiaries, &c. Many experienced workers would be surprised how few factory girls are in these homes. We are all so ready to conclude that service is and must be the best, but alas, it is from these classes that most of our rescue homes receive their inmates; so that we must be very careful before even advising a girl to leave a factory for service. Besides this how are they to be trained? They are seldom fit for a gentleman's house at once, and to send them to small

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places first, is generally to make them thoroughly disgusted. Seldom will any home give a respectable factory girl free training without 5/-, 7/- or 8/- a week being paid for the time she is there. There is no difficulty when once the girl has fallen, then there are plenty of homes open to receive her. No doubt the Rescue Societies are doing excellent work, but it does seem hard on girls who beg for the same training and for a helping hand to enable them to fly from the temptations around them, that for this, someone must pay the money, which they are seldom able to procure, and which those who are fallen get free.

"They need not work unless they like!" If they stay away they are afraid of being dismissed. We had a case one night where a lad had no money for his tea; some of the girls tried to persuade him to come here and ask for it on trust, but this he refused to do. However, hunger must have overcome his patience, and he just looked in saying, "Goodnight girls, I'm off home." Immediately there was a chorus of "Oh don't, you'll get the sack, you know you will. Miss ---- will trust you. Oh do come in," and two ran out and dragged

him in by force. It is delightful to be able to say that we seldom have to remind anyone of their debts, which are generally promptly paid.

What do they get for overtime? 1¼d., 1½d., 1¾d. or 2d. per hour, after 8 p.m., but it must be remembered that there are some on piece work who earn very good money in the busy time.

It is a real pleasure to do this work, as one and all are grateful, and the only drawback is that our place is so very small that we cannot take half of those we should like. The men have asked for one for themselves, as they express it:—"Miss ---- has done what she can to unite rich and poor, and to show us that the latter can have their meals just as comfortably as the former (I fear the well-to-do would not call it comfort here), and we want her to do for us what she has done for the girls." We are assured that many would come in instead of going to the Public Houses. Then our boys think it a terrible disappointment if we do not open on Saturdays for them. They come with long tales of woe if our doors are shut, police are after them, they are sure to get

attended with a lot of evil. Sandy finery & cakes instead of good clothing & food. They say supplementary wages for their fancies which keeps them at home. Pig together in small rooms. Protest overcrowd.

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Order that every school shd have its own bank. But it has not been done. Children
take to it & like it. He made an opening 2 yrs ago.

Womens work.

Small industries for men.

Dock strike.

Cheap food.

Collecting Banks.

Difference between boys & girls.

School Banks.

into mischief and be taken up, and they are cold, tired and hungry. We now have them in directly after football, and again from 7 to 9 p.m., but alas, it is difficult to turn them out. They are much easier to please than the girls, and will always take whatever we have. After tea, coffee, or cocoa, bread and butter, cake, &c., they sit and have games. Some of these lads have histories which make our hearts ache for them. Three brothers, total abstainers, had a very drunken mother; when she died a lad of fourteen was left in charge of the house, having to do all the housework and cooking for his father and three brothers; the father is often sober for weeks, and will save up, then he begins to drink, and all his savings are spent. The boys always look thoroughly uncared for; one says he hates to stay indoors, as everything he does is wrong, his greatest pleasure is to keep the Club Room door for us, especially when there is music upstairs. Another lad has an Atheist father, a man, who, when his wife was alive, would thrash her and turn her out all night. When this place was first opened, the lady who was then

in charge found this poor woman early one Sunday morning asking where she could get a cup of coffee, having been out all night. She has since died, and as, in the other case, a young lad, supposed to be in consumption, and too ill to work in a factory or iron-yard, is the housekeeper and servant. It was said that the lad who comes here had never known a happy hour in his life. One night when a boy was told that it was only ten minutes to nine, he said, "Oh, then I can live for another ten minutes.' We have another boy who comes here for nearly all his food. He has a very bad, drunken mother, who never gets him a proper meal. A little while ago he was out of work, and we began to think that all he had was a piece of cake and a cup of tea twice a day, which he bought here. A lady gave us money to spend in food for him, but the difficulty was how to give it without offence. We had to send for him two or three times before he would come in, and then he blushed like a girl when we asked him to have a meat pudding; but when once his pride was forgotten, how he enjoyed his

attended with a lot of evil. Sweets, fruit & cakes instead of good clothing or food. They are for their families who keep supplementary wages — keep them at home. Pig together in small rooms. Protest overcrowd.

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dinner! and we wish his kind friend could have seen his bright, happy face.

The newspapers have lately said much to make out that our Island is the most dismal spot in London, and the lives the factory girls lead, the most terrible, but I feel sure our girls and boys are as honest, hard working, clean, and as moral as in any parish in East London, and more grateful I think than anywhere else; for instance, through the kindness of the Rev. D. Cowan, we have been able to start two new clubs in his parish, one for older girls, which is so large, though quite in its infancy, that we have to consider seriously if we can take in any new members; in fact, we have to admit girls over 16 into the junior club, as there is not room in the senior. The latter pay most willingly 1d. a week, and were quite delighted with the idea of paying something towards the gas, (we have the room rent free). They assured us that they did not mind how much they paid if they only had their club, they looked forward to it so much, but they did wish it could be open twice a week.

Dear friends, will you help us with your

money, old or new clothes, books, games, Christmas cards, and old sweet boxes, to brighten a few sad and dreary lives? God has given to some the power and strength to work, to others the pleasure of giving; many can spare a little,—we do not mind how small it is,—if every reader would send 1/-, how it would help! We want anything and everything, especially flannel. A doctor, talking about consumption, said 'they never hardly wear flannel until it is too late.' Our rope girls have a long walk soon after 6 a.m., and are beginning to feel the cold very much. We would be grateful even for pieces of warm material. Then we want personal help. Ladies who will undertake to come once a week, either for the whole afternoon, or from 1 to 2 p.m. We also need people to undertake to send magazines to one factory girl once a month. The Sunbeam Society has given endless pleasure here among the children, and Mrs. Battiscombe, the Head, knows and is willing that we should try and do something the same for our older girls. Her Society is for the younger ones. No one can realise the pleasure of something

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coming by post, and the delight when a friend writes to them. Then we want flowers and berries,—oh, how many are left to die that might be brightening the homes of East London.

Please do not hesitate to send us anything, we shall be especially glad of new clothing suitable for prizes: the large number of marks made by the various members of Classes rather frightens us, as all over a certain number, get a prize, and they much prefer under garments to any thing else.

I cannot conclude without one illustration of what 3s. 3d. will do. Members of our roughest class, and a few mothers were invited for a cup of tea and a piece of cake. These mothers enjoyed themselves so much that one or two had tears running down their faces. One by one, as they went out, they thanked us, saying, we did not expect to enjoy ourselves like this; we seldom get any pleasure, it has been such a change.'

Finally:—The Annual Report will not be printed till January, (when a full list of Subscriptions and Expenditure will be published) instead of December, as we shall be

so very busy now until after Christmas. All our friends will be glad to hear that we have paid off the debt on the start, all but £15; we have a few outstanding accounts, but £50 would leave us quite free from debt, and what a relief it would be to be able to start the New Year with no bills to pay. We are deeply grateful to all those who have so kindly helped us with money, clothes, magazines, &c., and especially to those ladies who have so unselfishly come one day week after week to help us in the dinner hour.

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LIST OF WANTS.

Money.
Personal help.
New and old Clothes for prizes and Christmas sale.
Knives, Forks and Spoons.
Toys.
Crackers.
New and old Christmas Cards.
Piano or Harmonium.
Things suitable for a Bran Pie.
Tea, Cakes, &c., for Christmas Teas.
Magazines.

All parcels and letters to be sent to
"The Welcome,"
333, West Ferry Road,
Millwall, E.

LIST OF CLASSES, &c.

Girls' Dinner Hour, 1 to 2 p.m. every day.
" " Saturdays, 1 to 2.30 p.m.
" Tea (when working overtime) 6 p.m.

Mondays.

Millwall Mothers' Meeting ...	2.30 p.m.
" Little Girls	6 p.m.
St. John's Senior Girls' Club ...	7.30 p.m.

Tuesdays and Fridays.

Millwall Senior Girls' Club ...	7 to 9 p.m.
Coffee Tavern open for Girls	9 to 9.30 p.m.

Wednesdays.

Charles Terrace Mothers' Meeting	2.30 p.m.
St. John's Junior Girls' Club	6.30 to 8.30 p.m.

Thursdays.

Millwall Junior Girls' Club	6.30 p.m.
Millwall Rangers' Football Club	8.15 p.m.

Saturdays.

Coffee Tavern open ...	1 p.m. to 9 p.m.
For young lads and boys only	5 p.m.
" " Club	7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Womens work.

Small industries for men.

Dock strike.

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School Banks.

THE ENGINEERS' STRIKE.

What is it doing for our girls and women? Making them work harder than ever: while the men are out for 8 hours a day, they work 10, and often 11, 12, and 13 hours. Their labour becomes cheaper, and their masters more independent. If the girls complain, or ask for higher wages, there are plenty outside waiting, and anxious to be taken on for what they can get.

We must live! is often a remark we hear, and in the very fight for bread many are preparing for themselves an early grave.

We have been told on good authority, that often the girls' work is better than the men's; for instance, the join in a tin, cannot be made as neatly by men's hands as by women's, yet the latter are paid half, or often even one third of what the men would get. Last Winter a man was paid off in one of the factories, and a girl put in his place. She received 5d. for exactly the same work for which the man had 11d. One woman whose husband had come out because the Engineers came, (he received none of the Union pay)

went to work in a factory, and paid a woman 3/- to mind her children. On Saturday, when she went to receive her money, she had 1/- given her for work from Tuesday. They said they were keeping two days' money in hand, but even then 1/- for working from Tuesday to Thursday was absurd. It is only fair to say that she had more given her at the beginning of the next week, but in the meantime money had to be borrowed, and clothes pawned to buy food for the starving children at home. The girls who worked beside her did (as they always do) what they could, one giving her a pair of boots, some money, and some food. Talking to a master who takes every care of his girls, and in whose factory there is a comfortable dining room, with everything they can want, we mentioned overtime and said we heard he was never allowed to work them over (Rope Grounds) and that the girls would occasionally be glad of the extra money, but we believed the Factory Acts were very strict where the goods were not perishable. He replied that if he were allowed to work them over at all, he would do so every night till 11 or 12, as

attended with a lot of evil. Dowdy finery & cakes instead of good clothing & food. They crave supplementary wages for their families which keeps them at home. Pig together in small rooms. Protected by overcrowd.

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their wages were so much smaller than the men's, but as it was now he had to keep the men, and sometimes was obliged to have two sets as occasionally they had to work all night. So you see after all, perhaps, it is a very good thing that we are not allowed.

Printed by Robert Browning, 29 Paternoster Row, London, E.C.

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attended with a lot of evil. Sweating fancy & cakes instead of good clothing & food. They earn supplementary wages for their families & keep them at home. Pig together in small rooms. Instead of scattering they overcrowd.

The smaller industries for men are Bulliouants, wire work & others. Larger number of unskilled labour now than formerly. Loading & unloading of ships by machinery has displaced much labour; it is the sudden displacement of labour that has done harm.

There wd. have been great opposition to strikes even during strike time if a vote had been taken. Men told Dr Conner they were afraid to vote against their leaders though they disapproved of the strike.

Cheapness & abundance of food has not been altogether a good thing. Men have not got learned to spend what is over from food & living.

The girls have taken up a collecting bank. Dunnel work has removed much poverty. One woman gives 2/6 per week & has done so for 2 yrs. Boys have a pride in saving the pence but the girls not. Girls will have their sweets. Number of people take out their money at Xmas.

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Crooks. LCC

Out-relief.

Saving.

Amusements.

found only one in the locality, ie in North Street. Board School.

Crooks has been an extremely useful man: helpful to poplar in connection with County Council: change in his views. His influence good. He has learnt much. He is paid by a certain class for a certain work so he has to shout for them but he acts nobly. Better never be shut representation of any large class. Let them mix together with cleverer men than themselves. So only can they learn wisdom.

Out-relief is given more & more: not working on lines of COS. Things are being better managed in the workhouse, greater comfort. Dr C is in favour of compulsorily subscription for superannuation believes it wd result in a saving to the nation. The hard man say 'What is the use of my saving!' & gave an example of men who had brought their own horses during Crimean war out of savings. Then came dearth of work. Rates rose. Householders had to pay. The thrifty who had saved paid for those who with the same opportunities had not saved.

Regularity the great thing for working men

Amusements - fields in connection with Churches. After the age of 2 young men Xtian Association. Also a club for

Disorderly Houses.

Failure of Vigilance Committee

~~[illegible]~~ for young men. Started by Sir Edmund Currie in William St. E India Rd. These only cater for a few. The Oriental (The Queen's) Music Hall & the Town hall are the only public places where amusement can be had. Many go to the Music Hall. 'Bad as bad can be: the most infernal drink to be found in the place!'

Great many houses of ill fame. More on the North side of E India Rd. than there used to be. They have been routed about. Vigilance Committee & Clergy. They don't collect now in any one locality, but they are dotted about. Used to be many in Simpsons Rd. & facing Poplar B'd of Works. Others at the back of All Hallows Church. Largely patronised by sailors. Main customers come from ships. Whores in shoals along the E. India Rd by Eastern Hotel. Public Houses are the centres for all these people. cop. opp. Eastern Hotel in the Pubs there. on the other side of the road.

Police work fairly well. Don't interfere if they can possibly help it.

Vigilance committee simply displaced. Did not remove the evil. They

Swimming club forgiven

Charity

Relations before marriage

did no good & died a natural death.

School girls swimming club has been a great success. in connection with Baths & Washhouses. due to D. C.

Women now go Thursday all day & on Sats 6.30 – 1.

In such little ways you can help. "Duty in little ways is the best help given." Girls assist one another. Effort to appear with better underclothing. Then started Gymnastic class. which had to be given up simply because the school-mistresses found it too much of an extra tax

A big Gymnasium & Temperance drinks on sale in it, are the chief things wanted in Poplar.

Much charity is given. Believes in COS work. Sees their cases tho' he is not on their Committee "Of course they are hard but they do a great good work." Several generous ladies who are hunting pet. eg. Mrs Ricardo, & Miss Brodie.

Allen COS has done much good, kind man & practical; was formerly their secretary here but has now moved West.

Much cohabitation before marriage. Parents when they see there is going to be a child generally marry. He does not always advise that they should especially when he knows the man to be a bad character. Two ladies employed in rescue work to whom he sends such cases.

Religious influences

Drift.

May 24th.

Miscell: 10.11.12 / 13 CB (2)

Interview with Mr Radford Sharpe (cont.d from page 125).

Non-Conformists:- Wesleyan Lord's Mission: good band of workers from spiritual side with strong antagonism to church. Give a great deal of relief in kind.

Mr Daniel, Lowndale Chapel, Congregational very small but good work.

Pomeroyle Chapel Wesleyan: ~~at~~ also small.

Roman Catholics:- Father Tilly: very poor: a good, active man: ready to meet other religious bodies freely: very keen on getting hold of the children.

Father Gordon Thomson:- gives much indiscriminate relief, says "he must help Coopers and Cadgers: it's right to help these people: even if it does them no good, it is good for the giver."

The district is fairly well covered with agencies. Mr S. gave me a list of the best and most solid bodies of the various societies

Charitable Relief.

Among applicants to the C.O.S. the tariff does not seem to increase; comparison between 1874 and 1893:-

1874	1893
15 p.c. in society	15 p.c. in society
73 p.c. remain in society	70 p.c. remain in soc.
12 p.c. lapsed	15 p.c. lapsed

At times of pressure a great stream of money is poured into the district, and most of it is badly administered by the clergy and ministers. Mr S. was formerly in the south of London, and things were not so bad there.

The C.O.S. committee is very non-clerical. There are working men members and evening meetings. The influence of the C.O.S. permeates Hoxton: the clergy start relief committees: they propose to work on C.O.S. lines, but don't. Women ~~the~~ meetings in the long run have an educative effect.

Jesse Argyle. - Mage 28.

Mr. Bolton Smart, 2 Portland St. is a member of the Board of Guardians for Stepney, & a prominent worker in the Rev. P. Thomas East End Wesleyan mission. His house adjoins the Tabernacle. A jovial man, very active & capable, & fond of the work of the mission.

He has been 8 years in the district, to wh. he came during the great dock struggle. Was previously engaged in mission work in the provinces for 7 years.

Mr Smart acted as, District Secy of the Mansion House Fund in connection with the Abbey Mills experiment for 3 years. He has all the case papers under them, & will be glad to let us see them. The fund was very carefully worked, & did a good deal of benefit with a minimum of evil. They attempted to deal thoroughly with each case, so as to produce

permanent improvement. One case cost them £90, but the people were now doing well in Canada. The man lost his work owing to the failure of the sugar industry, & then got casual employment at the docks, but was thrown out by the reorganization of Dock labour.

A considerable number of people were assisted to emigrate, & some did very well, but others were great failures. The complete change of life came too suddenly upon them & they were quite unfitted for it. Attempts were made to get them a year's preliminary training on English farms, but there were great difficulties in the way.

He believes, from the experience of the Atty Hills test, that the great majority of those dealt with were quite willing to work, but were helpless & demoralised, partly as a result of what had been going on for years at

the dock gates.

Next to drink, casual labour is the most demoralising influence existing in East London.

Mr Smart spoke at length of the work of the Wesleyan Mission in East London. It has 6 centres, but is conducted, apparently, as one big centralised organisation combining religious, social, & temperance work. There is a medical mission, & 24 sisters are permanently at work amongst the poor. There are food Temples, bands of hope, women's meetings, workgirls' parlours, sewing classes, &c. at each centre.

He thinks they succeed in reaching a lower stratum of the population than any other organisation, & in proof of this gave us a number of instances (three cases I expect) of men who were awful drunkards & bad characters at one time,

but were now leading very respectable & God-fearing lives. These included the chapel keeper & office assistant of church here, both of whom I saw at work.

A particular difficulty wh. they have to meet with here is that the better class are constantly quitting the neighbourhood, leaving the sediment behind. It does not think the East End has yet touched bottom in this respect. The process wh. they find goes on is as follows:- A family living in some court or alley having come under the influence of the mission, in a short time moves into a more decent street or buildings, & continuing to attend the various meetings at the Tabernacle hears from others what they have done, & the advantages that are to be had from living a little way out. So, as soon as they are able, they in turn move to Forest Gate or Upton Park, & in this way he behind they lost quite

100 of their people last year.

They try to counteract this lowering tendency of the locality by having resident mission sisters, & have broken through the 3 years rule in order to give permanency to their ministers.

There is a good deal of immorality going on in the neighbourhood but no more than might be expected having regard to the cases under wh. the people live. The difficulty in regard to sexual relationship often crops up in connection with their mission work. People (couples) who have been regular attendants at the J-church for a long time are suddenly discovered (or confess) never to have been married, & there is perhaps a legal obstacle to such marriage in the shape of a runaway husband or wife.

Instances cases of a child being baptised & parents married on same day, & of a marriage being postponed owing

to confinement of the bride.

Dr Stonham (med. officer to guardians) could give valuable information on the question of sexual immorality & early marriages.

It is a choice of evils, & he hardly knows sometimes wh. is the worst. Sometimes case of a woman applying for relief, who was a grandmother at 34.

One great inducement to early marriage is the fact that the girls earn money. Lads who would not think of marrying on their own earnings are tempted by the 10/- or so wages of the girl to think they can get along all right, & the time when she will not be able to work is not thought of.

The facts as to immorality, &c., are perhaps not worse, he thinks, than in many provincial places, particularly where there are factories.

Sewing is systematically & thoroughly

taught by the agencies of the mission. The work is graded, & paid for according to quality, in order to encourage good work & effort. This work is sold to mothers meetings & in other ways.

~~No attempt~~ They have no systematic teaching of cooking or domestic work for girls who attend the ordinary mission agencies, but the girls get some idea of tidiness & order by each taking it in turn to arrange, dust & prepare the rooms in wh. the young women's guilds are held. These rooms are furnished as decent parlours, & several of the girls vie with each other in seeing wh. can make the room look best.

There is a training home at Blackheath to wh. such of the girls are sent as show desire to get away from their present rough life & surroundings. Here they are properly trained for domestic service.

[Mr. Smart having another engagement, we had to break off here. He is just going away for a week. Will look up case papers on his return, & pleased to see us again. A great deal could be got from him about the missionary work]

Miscell
10.11.12
15

(2)

Jesse. Argyle. May 28th

Mr. F.C. Wills. J.P. 38 Albert Square E.

I called upon Mr. Wills ostensibly to get his views about Local Government & Poor Law administration, he being a member both of the Limehouse B. of Works & Stepney Guardians. On neither of these questions, however did he seem willing to say much, nor is he enamoured of magisterial work. at first he says it was "good fun" there being excitement in regard to the licensing question, but now the magistrates are pretty well agreed as to restricting these as much as possible, & he very rarely takes his place on the bench. Does not care about the criminal law — was educated as a barrister but gave it up. Did not care either for the work or the Society met with

As to the Guardians, he agrees with their policy. Thinks it the only reasonably feasible plan in such a locality as this. They would otherwise be overrun with applicants. Has a high opinion of Mr. Stokes-Med Off: to Guardians. he could tell me all about the class of applicants for relief & such questions as health, mortality, & early marriage

Mr. Wills is a short spare man in early middle life perhaps; has a kindly disposition & an impediment in

his speech. Reminded me, in manner, &c, of Mr. Norman Grosvenor. Apparently a bachelor with a moderate independency, his great hobby is in providing amusement for the children & lads – in this his whole heart is centred. He has been a Board School manager for 14 years. Says what struck him ~~most~~ when he came into the district was that the children did not know how to play. They quarrelled & fought more than anything else. He has set himself to organise amusements for them. For several years he has had a lads club in Broad St. Ratcliff. He invited me to go round, to see this, & afterwards go on with him to a sports prize distribution at the Highway Board Schools. As we proceeded on our way, the terms on which he is with the children was soon evident, for several of them came running up to him, & there was a pleasant word for each in quite the "hail fellow well met" style. The club has capital gymnasium, with rooms for bagatelle, draughts &c. There are now 70 or 80 members but several ~~times~~ hundreds have passed through. They are admitted from 13 to 18, & it is often a job to get rid of them at the latter age, Mr. W. says. He notes down in a book the occupation of them all when they join the club. Many are printers boys, errand boys &c. I suggested it would be interesting to know their after career

& he at once fell in with the idea & undertook to trace a number of them. He said he had in many times observed the difficulty these lads had in getting suitable work when they got to be 18 or so. He had himself got better places for several of them. Many up to that age. were not getting more than 10/- to 12/- a week & were learning no trade. Casual labour or the Army were no doubt the last resorts of such lads. Of any 10 of his lads he guessed roughly that 2 would get into a skilled trade, 2 would become regular dock or wharf employes, 1 would die, 2 would drift into casual labour, 2 would become soldiers or seamen, & 1 get permanent employment in another way.

At the Highbury school some 80 or 90 boys received us with great applause. The occasion was the presentation of prizes won at the St Georges-in-the-East football sports as set forth in subjoined programme. [For programme see next page]. Half a dozen Board Schools in St Georges are concerned together in these sports & form a football league, & the special feature of the day was the handing of the football challenge shield to the team of the Highbury School – quite a handsome trophy which has now been held by

1897.

ST. GEORGE IN THE EAST SCHOOLS FOOTBALL SPORTS.

LIST OF PRIZE WINNERS.

100 YARDS FLAT RACE.

SCHOOL HEATS.

Betts Street— 1. Schafer
2. Spelling

Broad Street— 1. Kempster
2. Young

Collingwood St.—1. Brown
2. Leaver

Highway— 1. Newquist
2. Coughlin, W.

Johnson Street— 1. Coughlin, J.
2. Roast

Lower Chapman St.—1. Pritchard
2. Clark

FINAL.

1. Coughlin, *Johnson Street.*
2. Flynn, ,, ,,
3. Leaver, *Collingwood Street.*

LONG JUMP.

SCHOOL HEATS.

Betts Street— 1. Druce
2. Fawcett

Broad Street— 1. Evans
2. Gill

Collingwood St.—1. Adcock
2. Pugh

Highway— 1. Farson
2. Hudson

Johnson Street— 1. Flynn
2. Timms

Lower Chapman St—1. Firman
2. Dobson

FINAL.

1. Hyam, *Highway*—11 feet 9½ inches.
2. Pritchard, *Lower Chapman Street*—11 feet 4½ inches.
3. Druce, *Betts Street*—11 feet 0 inches.

KICKING THE FOOTBALL.

1. Young. *Broad Street*—93 feet 6 inches.
2. Gillman, *Highway*—89 feet 10 inches.
3. Davis, *Lower Chapman Street* –86 feet 6 inches.

220 YARDS FLAT RACE (OLD BOYS.)

1. Ward, E., *Betts Street.*

TUG OF WAR.

1. JOHNSON STREET.

CONSOLATION RACE.

Canty, Rossall, Elvy, Tarbuck, Treers, Douglas, Spollon, Buck.

PAPER CHASE.

The Hares were caught (Paper failed.)

HARES—Flynn, Coughlin, J. Firman.
HOUND—Pritchard.

WINNERS OF THE SHIELD.

HIGHWAY.

RESULT OF FOOTBALL LEAGUE.

1.	*Highway*—	10	Points.
2.	*Broad Street*	8	,,
3.	{ *Collingwood Street*—	4	,,
4.	{ *Lower Chapman Street*—	4	,,
5.	*Johnson Street*—	2	,,
6.	*Betts Street*—	1	,,

The Prizes will be presented by Sir CHARLES ELLIOTT, K.C.S.I., at the Highway School, on Friday, May 28th, 1897, at 4.45 p.m.

The Chair will be taken by the President, the Rev. PREB. TURNER, M.A.

3 or 4 of the schools in turn. Quite proud & happy evidently were the winning team. & I was struck with the cordial cheers with which they were received by the boys from the rival schools—quite the ring of true sportsmanlike feeling. Most had a prize – a cricket bat or ball, the game of bat, trap & ball, or apparatus for a like game, & one or two watches. Poorly dressed boys, some very so, but none the less pleased. Rev Preb Turner was in the chair & Sir Chas Elliott gave away the prizes & afterwards made a pleasant little speech. Mr Wills & some of the schoolmasters (one of whom was present from each school with his contingent of boys) added words in which they emphasized the friendly feeling between the schools & the efforts of the asst teachers who had trained the boys. Then came cheers for donors, chairman, & everybody concerned & so brought the proceedings to an end.

I was afterwards introduced to Miss Knightley who has a club for the roughest class of girls at London St. Ratcliff, & is to the girls what Mr Wills is to the Boys. They are both agreed that the B^D schools are the finest & most active centres for local work &

both believe in giving the children scope to enjoy themselves — places at which they can exerude their animal spirits beneficially to themselves & without injury to others.

On our way back we passed through Irwin Court Cable Street. The houses have been newly done up but the occupants are still very poor (& "quite harmless" Mr Wills says) Nearly a score of youngsters were at play & about half of them bare footed, altho' the day was rather wet & very windy.

Back at Mr Wills's house. I met a Mr Warboy (so I understood the name), a short fair whiskered man, who came in armed with a hand camera, with which he had, he said, been trying to get one or two snap shots Mr W is connected with the C.O.S in the district & is very much of that school. There are far too many agencies at work, among the people he thinks. Their self reliance is being sapped. He spoke of the brunt of destitution on which the great bulk of the people here live, & of the very serious results of a few days frost &c

The great fault of any sensational appeals to public charity apart from the general evils of attracting loafers, spasmodic giving &c, is that the help

always comes too late - when the money comes the immediate need for it has gone. What is wanted is a reserve fund, & a thoroughly well thought out scheme, so that when exceptional distress arises it can be immediately & properly met. He thinks the East End parishes might combine in good times like the present to frame a thorough & judicious plan of action against the next bad period - Referred to various pieces of waste land which might be drained & cultivated work which might well be done & would be of public utility when carried out.

There was some further talk in which the National Friendly Deposit Society was mentioned as having some peculiar system of pensions, the depositor having option of withdrawing the money after a certain period

Mr Warbey says. A.C.H Graham of the Labour Electoral League 6 Kirby St. Poplar is worth seeing -

On leaving I promised to call to see Mr Mills' club in full working.

Poverty.

Drink.

Housing, Sanitation & Health

Are marriages early tiffso is this an evil.

What are the relations of the sexes before marriage.

Miscell
10.11.12
5

(2)

Copy of Answers to Form E. Sent by request to H. R. Barge, Headmaster of the St. Leonards Road Board School.

See also page 93

1. a. Poverty.

Always with us to a considerable extent among the labourers, casual workers etc. Not acute at present as work is good. Mechanics as a rule can find work.

1b. Not a drunken district. The poorer & more depraved the district or street the more given to drink are the inhabitants. Among the very poorest class both men & women are intemperate.

1c. Knowing much better than 10 or 15 years ago. Now Good. Grosvenor Buildings Poplar, a fine block of model dwellings, now stands where rookeries formerly existed.

Sanitation & Health well looked after by a vigorous local Board well backed up by capable & vigilant officers.

2. Marriages in the district do not strike men as early.

3. As a rule the young people are moral & well behaved. Even the very poor though coarse in jest &

What influence does religion exercise.

What influence has Education had.

What Charity is given & how is it administered.

Local Government.

Amusements

& behaviour could not be accused of immorality as a rule.

4. Religion exercises strong influence - Many flourishing Churches & Chapels Nearly all have well organised classes Temperance. Societies Guilds young peoples social gatherings &c — But with all this a large percentage of the population rarely or never attend a place of worship.

5. Education. Decidedly a splendid effect. The wastrels now as a rule are those who in their youth evaded attendance Officers or were confirmed truants.

6. Several. local charities administered by Church-wardens overseers as a rule. The Poplar Benevolent Society which celebrated its jubilee (50th year) last year does great good among the poor & deserving. Supported by Voluntary Contrs. The Jubilee Chairman was Mr. Sidney Smith, Secretary Mr. W. Raymond. The George Green School now a Grammar School was founded by Mr Green.

1. A rate making & money controlling body called the Trustees of Poplar All persons rated at £26 or over. (2) Popularly elected Vestry who manage public baths & library (3) Board of Works elected by Vestries of Poplar, East Bromley -

2. Very few except evening concerts &c at Town Hall etc. for which there is no sch. Great improvement made during last year or two, by Lavring County Council Band, Police Band &c, play about

Amusements (cont)

Social Condition

twice a week in Poplar Recreation Ground. Much appreciated.

Good local professional football club (Millwall Athletic) sprung up during last few years. Four or five thousand people usually attend the Saturday afternoon matches.

People as a rule very fond of music & will listen to anything from a street singer or cornet player to a good concert or band.

Blackwall Tunnel will open up a walk (not a good one at present in Poplar) to get a breath of air on other side of Thames.

Blackwall Pier usually crowded on Summer evenings. - our solitary promenade in Poplar except main road (East India R^d) which is equally crowded, especially Sunday evenings.

A town of working class people. No rich (practically) except a few professional men & better off tradesmen. Well behaved law abiding community - Trades unions strong, labour representative (Mr. W. Crooks) on County Council. People a bit fond of demonstrations & banners but little of the extreme socialistic element. Great hands at excursions beanfeasts &c. The neighbourhood rings with them during summer months.

Trade in neighbourhood reviving new industries springing up in place of the old shipyards. Still considerable amount of iron ship building [Harrow, Green &c] & engineering done in the district. More permanent hands & less casual labour at Works now - a distinct improvement

Poplar Population date 1891 4493. 1896 5775. Area 1164 acres, 7400 houses.

Rateable Value Gross £482388 Nett £335451 [for further statistics see little book]

Nursing sisters of St John the Divine

Extent of Work.

Whitsun Tuesday. June 8th

Miscell 10.11.12

~~CA (2)~~

G.H.D.

Sister Maude. of the Nursing sisters of S. John the Divine. Poplar branch. 1 Bow Lane. Poplar. E.

Started in 1880 in Poplar

Mother home in Drayton Gardens where the private nurses live: these nurses have all been trained in their private hospital at Lewisham. They are trained at hospital for 13 months as a minimum. They have also a maternity hospital in Chelsea and other branches in Deptford & Lewisham.

Work in the districts of
St Gabriels
St Stephens
S. Michaels.
All Saints
Allhallows
St Fridesides
St Saviours

General nursing is not done in St Saviours because they have no hut accidents in all. St Fridesides also have a ~~trained mission nurse~~

Staff in Poplar

Nursing done by other sects

Lack of night nurses.

St Bridesides have recently started a nurse of their own

Sister in charge & 2 or 3 nurses + sometimes a lady pupil who all live here. As a rule the working community does not number more than 4

All the clergy or doctors send to them when wanted now people are beginning to come of themselves.

Undenominational nursing: no distinctions made between one creed and another or no creed.

Romans as far as she knows have no nurses: she has never seen any. The priests comes around occasionally but they often have to nurse Romans.

At All Saints they have a mission nurse who does not nurse but gets up Bible classes & working classes for girls & visits in the district

Kilburn sister working at St Michels does not nurse but visits in the district: she also undertakes some "ordinary chronics" but really does not undertake general nursing

Illness comes in rushes. Just now much influenza & pneumonia & are very busy. They could do with a larger staff. Nurses for night work are what are especially wanted

Division of work.

They visit cases sometimes as much as 3 times a day & occasionally but only very rarely sit up all night with them

Lying-in cases.

Drink

Poor Streets.

Providence Place facile princeps.

Probationers paid after the first month. The terms of engagement & payment can be had from Drayton Gardens. Always 2 for general work & 2 for midwifery. and one sister in charge. This is the division of work in Poplar.

Lying in cases are much better conducted in their own homes both medically & morally. Women retain influence over their husbands & children.

Q^n Charlotte's, receives anyone really for the experience that the cases give their nurses.

Drink gets no better. It is the ruin of homes down here. Woman yesterday drunk a pint & a half of whiskey. Her husband is respectable but this was a little too much & he has now gone off to sea.

Providence place, Norfolk St, Wells Street, Cottage St; are poor rough places. Many Irish. Providence Place out of Ashton St^e is especially bad.

Sophia St^t & ~~Providence~~ Rook St^t are very poor but not nearly so bad as Providence Place. where children have no shoes, women always quarrelling; have just been mending a woman's head which had been kicked open by her husband. Everyone dirty & disreputable.

Bank Holiday

Changes in Poplar.

Payment for nursing

Religion

Great deal of drunkenness this last Sunday & Monday. people don't quiet down before 12 or one in the morning. Up till then there is a noise & a riot

Poplar hardly the same place as 16 yrs ago: it is so much better now. So many are working & so much has been done.

People have to pay nurses 5/- for each confinement this includes attendance for 9 days after. People value it much more if they have to pay. For small things there is no charge.

When cases can afford it they are made to pay something towards the dressings: otherwise not. Give some medicines as well tho' they are not supposed to do it.

Linseed also is allowed here cheaper than people can buy it in the shops because they buy it wholesale. Besides in the shops such awful stuff is sold. not linseed at all.

Dont undertake religion. They always send for the clergy for that part. When a case is very near death they will speak to him if no clergyman is present.

Nursing among Dissenters

Vice in Poplar.

No saving

Sanitation

Books read.

Dissenters dont do any nursing. Sometimes they keep a Bible woman but not always. If she (the Bible woman) nurses she does very little of it & she is never a properly trained nurse.

The East London Nursing has no nurse here though it has one at Limehouse.

Nurses, boarded fed housed & clothed for nothing. It does not make any difference to the nurses wage whether she is at Deptford, Poplar,

Much vice, many sailors,

People dont save, stevedores make good money but they spend it again, mostly on drink.

Sanitation much better than it used to be. I am always meeting the sanitary authorities inspecting the houses

People are very fond of books. Have a small lending library. Irish people read a good deal. Jews especially fond of reading. Very rarely see a daily news paper

Effect of Board School Education

Poor relief.

Marriages.

about but very often there is Tit-bits or Scraps
or even more often than these 'Answers'. Children
are certainly much cleverer than they used to be but.
Boys worked very hard at schools: many come for spectacles
Traces eye weakness to overwork at schools. This has
undoubtedly increased. Education has often spoilt the
"People are pretty well looked after" | manners of the children:
they are less respectful to their parents than they used to be.
Parish out-door relief difficult to get. Is in favour of
out door relief for respectable old people. 'It seems
very hard that such as these should have to go into
the house'. C.O.S takes such a time to inquire into their
cases

Many early marriages. "More often 19 or 20 than later
sometimes even at 16 or 17."

Miss Smith. Bromley Training Institute.

Staff.

Training in Maternity Work.

Definition of a Deaconess.

Parish notes 12/4 CB (2) F.H.S.

Page 8th

Miss Smith. Deaconess in charge of the Bromley Training Institute of mission nurses in connection with Harley House (Dr Grattan Guinness').

In charge of Training Home for Missionary nurses.
Is the nursing branch of Dr Grattan Guinness' institute.

Have 4 nurses. and 9 deaconesses here (7 now).

Nurses trained solely in maternity cases from the district. Come here to gain L.O.S diploma working under a trained maternity nurse. Quite interdenominational the nursing. Many of the patient have no creed at all.

Anyone in a training home is a deaconess if she is engaged in spiritual work among the people.
All the deaconesses are training for foreign missions.

Nurses take a 3 months course here. Nurses are constantly

Romans.

Classes in the neighbourhood

Jute & match girls

constantly changing but the work goes on without remission.

Deaconnesses are here for 2 to 3 years.

Many Romans in the neighbourhood "at least they call themselves so, but in reality are nothing".

The majority round here are the very poor working class. Employed mainly in the docks, Gasworks, factories. Many factory girls. Much of their work lies among them. Bells Boyant & Mayo, Berges starch. Jute, Fair Fennel Cake, Laundry work.

Jute girls the roughest but match girls also very rough. Very rough, very wild, very dirty but not by any means the worst class of factory girls.

Not many slums round here. All shew an attempt at respectability.

There are one or two bad streets off St Leonards Rd. esp one court between Bryan St & St Leonard avenue

Object of work.

Indifference & too much religion

Other nursing societies

Ritualists

of the St. Leonards Rd. where they were last Sunday every conducting a service - preaching - hymn.
Some visiting. "all with the object of giving people to Christ."
All leave. This is a training for foreign work by means of home work.

People indifferent. They have had too much of religion. 'You can hardly find a person who has not heard of the Gospel but who at the same time have not accepted the way of salvation'. "We dont seek to unite people with any church but simply to preach Christ to them".

People stolid. 'Dont see the need of being woken up.'

The Sisters of St Michaels (who have a lady doctor) do a good deal of visiting & are very good to the people.
A Socalled protestant sisterhood "But they are very high indeed."

More is being done by the Ritualists than by the Romans. Has had RC patients, at least they called them selves

Qualified good done by education

Berger Hall congregations

Baptists the predominant sect.

so, but when you come to enquire of what they really knew it was absolutely nil!

Educational work is good but it often makes children think they know too much & they become careless of religion.

Spiritually the district between E & R & Bow Rd. is well looked after

In Simpson St. they have about 800 in the evening & 400 in the morning

The Tabernacle is fairly attended: this is only ordinary church work. Berger Hall on the other hand is mission work & touches the poorest of the poor. Of Wesleyans just round here are none but there are one or 2 congregationalists

Baptists predominate over any other sect here if you take in the East London Tabernacle

Believers' Baptism is the real test of religious belief. This is followed by total immersion: strictly in accordance with the practice of the Gospels.

Early Marriages.

Increasing influence of the Romans.

Books read by factory girls

Payments for maternity cases.

Early marriages a cause of much poverty. Majority marry between 20 & 21. Not a large proportion dont marry though perhaps the character of the work wd prevent them coming in contact with them.

Influence of the Romans is increasing everywhere. Perhaps not so much about here as elsewhere.

Factory girls are great readers of novelettes. Women penny stories 'which seek to give them the right thing wrapped up' are widely read. Factory girls mostly "know about religion but they wont have it most of them"

5/- is paid for maternity cases by the patients: some pay more & some ~~as~~ less if they cant really afford it.

St John nurses do a good work.. District Nurses connected with Churches. Has never come in contact with any of the Roman nurses.

On leaving. Miss Smith. "You have asked me so many questions may I ask you one?
G.H.D (unsuspecting) Certainly, anything I can do etc. Miss S. after a pause 'Are you saved'
G.H.D. another pause. Afraid I dont really know. Even if I thought so I shd hardly like to say it
Miss S. If you were saved you would know it & say so.... Very long pause. G.H.D holds hand at the door & Miss Smith takes the hint.

June 10th.

Miscell.
10-11.12
15

(2)

Visit to Miss Brodie, 355 East-India Dock Road:-

Miss Brodie is the Branch Sec. of the Girls' Friendly Society in the parish of All Hallows. I called on her with the object of seeing how far it was desirable to see local representatives of this Society even when not specially mentioned to us, and came to the conclusion that there was no reason to do so. Any information we wish to obtain as to the work of the Society it would be better to obtain from Head Quarters.

Miss Brodie gave me the report of the East-London Committee of the Society, and I append the report of the All Hallows Branch:-

ALL HALLOWS, EAST INDIA DOCKS.

Branch Secretary—Miss BRODIE, 399, East India Road, E.
Club Room—37, Culloden Street.

All through the year 1896, this Branch has continued to be worked in the same way as usual. Very few changes have taken place. Twenty-eight new Members have been admitted, nine have been commended to other Branches, one has died, one has married, three have withdrawn from the Society, and two have gone away without leaving any address.

The Club Room is open four days in the week. Various Clubs and Classes are held, to all of which G.F.S. Members are admitted. Three Bible Classes are held on Sunday afternoons. Forty Members attended the Annual Service at St. Paul's Cathedral, in June.

Eight Members have been helped by the East London G.F.S. Sick Fund, and one girl was given a grant of £3 to enable her, with the co-operation of the Poplar Branch of the Charity Organization Society, to go to Torquay for the winter. Two Members have been adopted by other Branches. By a grant from a donation kindly given by Lady MEATH, several Members were able to go with a Bible Class excursion to Clacton.

Number of Members, December 31st, 1896—96. Probationers—10.

WORKING ASSOCIATES.

	£	s.	d.
Miss Pearson ...	0	2	6
Miss Henderson ...	1	1	0
Miss Dalton	0	2	6
Miss E. Dalton ...	0	2	6

	£	s.	d.
Miss Brodie	0	2	6
	£1	11	0

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

	£	s.	d.
Miss Rippingall...	0	5	0
Mrs. Smith (for Registry)	0	2	6
	£0	7	6

ALL HALLOWS, EAST INDIA DOCKS.

Receipts.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Balance from 1895				1	1	11
Subscriptions—						
To Working Associates				1	11	0
,, Honorary ,, ...				0	5	0
Donations—						
For Registry (not fees)				0	2	6
From Lady Meath				1	10	0
Girls' Payments—						
To Amount of Members' Payments				4	6	9
,, Payments for Magazines				0	15	0
Sundry Receipts—	£	s.	d.			
Grants—						
From Industrial Department, (for Alice Sparks)—						
Central (per Mrs. Roberts)...	2	10	0			
London (per Mrs. Symes Thompson)	0	10	0			
Incurable Fund (for Clara Taylor)	3	0	0			
From East London Finance Committee...	5	0	0			
				11	0	0
				£20	12	2

Expenditure.

	£	s
Paid to Diocesan Secretary—		
(For Central Fund) Half of Members' Payments	2	[illegible]
Percentage on Subscriptions ...	0	[illegible]
Subscription to Diocesan Fund ...	0	[illegible]
List	0	[illegible]
Expenses of Recreation Room—		
Rent	5	[illegible]
Teas, &c., and Summer Excursion	2	5
Incidental Expenses—		
Magazines		
Payment of Premiums—3, for one year's service	0	15
Help given in sickness	0	5
Printing, Stationery, Postage, &c. ...	0	10
Sundries—		
Associates' Book	0	1
Paid to Charity Organization Society for Clara Taylor ...	3	0
Balance forward ...		

January 2nd, 1897.

Signature of Branch Secretary, Ida P. B
Auditor's Signature, E. Arbuthnot.

Most of the members are dressmakers or something in the city.

Miss Brodie also acts as a district visitor in the parish of the Hallows and has lived there for ten years. She told me one thing as to visiting which throws some light on the meaning of house to house visitation and that is that it is exceedingly difficult now to see more than one family in a house: "we very seldom manage to see the upstairs people".

Mr J J Gale
School master

Geo. E. Aked
May 14/97

His career

Children on Roll

Religious views
of Parents

Social Status.

Residence

Fees

Connection of Church
& School

Transcribed: 10 11 12

(2)

Mr J. J. Gale. Head Master of
Wesleyan Day School, Hale St, Poplar.

Mr Gale has been connected with the School for 32 years. He went there as a scholar at the age of 7 and has been head master for 17 years. Had spent 3 years with the London School Board before he was appointed head master.

There are 318 children on the books. A very small percentage of the children of Wesleyans. A large number whose parents are connected with other denominations and even some Jews and Roman Catholics.

The children are largely those of tradesmen and the better ~~class~~ artizan class. Come from the High Street, St Pauls Road and the Abbott Estate.

Fees 3d to 5d. Were 6d at first; then school became too full & they raised fees in higher classes to ~~of~~ rather than build a larger school.

Directly the Dayschool does not benefit the Church but

Church & School

Personal Influence lacking or weak

What Scholars become.

Wesleyan Church Items

indirectly it does. Children attending the day school become accustomed to the place and more readily join the Sunday school. Some of these as they grow up will go to the church and come under its influence. The missing link between the Church and the young people is not at school age but just above that – at 15 to 16 years of age. What is needed then is the formation of a personal attachment & the Wesleyans are rather unfortunate in this respect the ministers not having time to attach the young people to themselves or if they do, they are removed & their influence lost.

Most of the lads as they leave school go to work: the place they take being determined more by what offers than the likes or dislikes of the lad. But few are apprenticed. Some – too many – go in for clerkships & of these a few who become dissatisfied may be apprenticed – a few thus started by the East London Apprenticeship Fund.

In connection with the Wesleyan Church, they have

Reading Room

Cycle, Cricket Clubs etc.

Conditions as to Work

Wealth.

a reading room for young men 3 or 4 nights a week. They pay 1d a week. At first it went with a great spring then flagged. Now the Young Men's Bible class has taken it up. There are also Cycle, Cricket & Football clubs connected with the church. The church's great weakness is the want of workers.

Church social is held once a quarter. Music singing etc.

We then turned from school & church matters to general topics taking Form E as the basis of conversation.

Ship building trade is not very flourishing on the Island - mainly small repairs. Engineering trade is taking its place. Men become sea-going engineers because it pays better. For skilled workers, he does not think there is much difference between present and past. The drift of the middle class people is however impoverishing the district. Taking the district as a whole the average is lower than formerly.

Drink.

Early Marriage

Relation of Sexes

Religious Influences:

Mr G. is an abstainer. Thinks abstinence is spreading altho' so many scholars do not belong to bands of hope as formerly. On the whole the district is improving.

Early marriages do not take place amongst the people of the chapel. Amongst outsiders some marry at 18.

Relation between the sexes is not as it should be amongst a certain section of the people. At Ricardo Street (large board school) they frequently have women bringing children to school. When asked the name they say "I don't know. Put it down Brown" &c.

Mr Chandler and St Freidswyde's are most active. All Hallows - intimately connected with Oban Road School. Several curates go over and watch the children's games and play with ~~with~~ them. Have clubs & classes for fret work etc.

Non-conformists do not do much this way. The non-conf. gives to spiritual work & the Church (Anglican) to social work.

Education

—Education has had a good effect. It is at a higher level than it was. Boys are more ~~intellectual~~ intellectual than they were — have been drawn out. They train the boy's intelligence now rather than give him facts. Taught to be much more careful and thrifty. Many of my boys have accounts in the Savings Bank.

C.O.S.

—C.O.S. has not got a good name but does good work. Ex. An ex-pupil teacher got a new cork leg through them for about £3.3.-.

Poor Law Administration

Mr. G. does not approve of the Poor Law as administered at Poplar. They give abundance of help where it is not needed. Especially mentioned the outrelief, which he thinks is given on wrong principles. Poor careful people, who have retained their furniture + their home cannot obtain help whilst the thriftless and improvident can.

Amusements

A great growth in outdoor amusements, yet large numbers still lounge about the streets.

Prospects of Young People.

Danger of Pernicious Literature

How counteracted.

Opinion of Mr Gale

As a whole he regards the rising generation here very hopefully. Numbers attend the Technical classes during the winter; some going to them straight from work. As a rule they will only take up ~~that~~ a subject that will directly benefit them "Will it benefit me?" is the question they ask.

They take a great pride in their personal appearance and ~~and~~ also in mental development.

One of the great dangers is the cheap trashy literature – Comic Cuts etc. If he finds one of his boys with them in school he would take it away but on the whole tries to establish a healthy tone amongst the boys. They are reading the Penny editions of great authors (Steads etc) in school. He buys them first & sees if they are ~~stuff~~ suitable. Then a little quiet ~~ridicule~~ ridicule of the trashy books as opportunity offers is very effective.

~~The~~ Gale impressed me very favourably. A quiet self-possessed man. Still young or only in early middle life, he ~~appe~~ showed a keen and sympathetic interest in his boys and appeared to think of their interests in ~~a~~ wider spheres than the daily school routine.

Extract from Daily Mail - June 30 - 1897

EAST-END BOY BATTALIONS.

Following the example of the warlike youth of Clerkenwell, the boys of the East-end have formed revolver corps, and carry on guerilla warfare in the streets. A brisk engagement took place on Monday night in Upper North-street.

Two detachments of juvenile sharpshooters came into collision, and hostilities began immediately. They exchanged revolver shots and volleys of stones, and then engaged in hand-to-hand combat with large sticks. The panic-stricken tradesmen in the street hastily ran up their shutters, and for a time anarchy reigned.

At this juncture 563 K came on the scene. But the belligerents were in no humour for arbitration. One of them, named Thomas Likeness, dealt him so hearty a blow on the shoulder with his stick that the weapon flew into three pieces.

Yesterday Likeness and a comrade in arms, named Charles Emmins, were placed in the dock at the Thames Police-court. They listened to a severe lecture from Mr. Dickinson, who fined Emmins 40s., or a month, and sentenced the other youth to six weeks' hard labour.