

B (174)
Miscellaneous 6
Poplar Limehouse
— " —

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Miss Bletch. W.M. Fawrell	A.L.B. Poplar Benefit Accident Relief Society G.H.D. St. Matthews Carr Street Mission	35 37 - 47 49	An account of the Carr St District Mission as far as it lies in St Matthew's Parish. Warden of the Stepney Lunehouse C.O.S.

May 25th

Miscellaneous
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5.

CH(2)

Interview with Mrs. Brown, Orchard
House Place Board School.

Mrs. Brown is Head Mistress of the
Orchard House Place School.

Orchard House Place is a queer little corner
of this district, almost completely shut off
from the rest of London in shape and
character. It has strong resemblance to the
Isle of Dogs; but it is on a much smaller
scale and is surrounded by the sea instead of
the Thames.

Mrs. Brown has been here since the school
was first started 11 years ago, and is said
to be the only person that knows the district
through & well.

Mrs. Brown is about 60 years of age.
She is a kind, motherly old lady, with a very
gentle face.

Social Condition

The place has her and still is to a

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great extent a sort of Hottah: the people seem to be by nature practical and predatory: here the law stands more or less a policeman is seldom seen, and in case of need to fetch one from Poplar takes about 25 minutes. The place seems to stand till a constable is obtained there; but at present the police are really afraid to come. The result is that in spite of their thefts (from the docks and wharves) and their consider fair of the inhabitants, are yet landed in jail.

The total number of families is 50 and of these not more than 10 are respectable. Few of the men ever do regular work: they prefer to sit two or three days a week unloading barges etc. Many of the women and girls work in the flourmills iron and steel works. The Thames Iron Works and the two large oil mills will not employ the men. The boys are often employed in clearing the bottoms of small barges, at which they earn as much as 15/- a week, and they will not work for

less.

Many of the families have been here for
4 or 5 generations: if they at least exhaust
the patience of the landlords and disappear & for
a time they almost always return. The place is
of course like a village: full of gossip and
Scandal. If a stranger is seen the news at once
spreads, and boys often run up to the School
to tell Mrs Brown that a man with a top hat
has been seen, with the kindly idea that she
may not be caught napping by an Inspector, as
they think that she ~~and~~ has in the same
degree of authority as they do.

The people generally would not be poor but
for their improvidence and shiftlessness; in one way
and another they make a good deal of money,
but it is spent as soon as made.

Housing, Sanitation, Health.

The houses are like pig-sties. This is due
not to the two landlords, who do their best, but
to the character of the inhabitants.

The sanitation title quite lately has diminished;

then was no sewer, and the drain's bent straight into Bon Link, with the result that at low tide the smokes were awful. Mr. Rathbone seemed to look upon it as unpardonable on Mrs. D.'s part when she tried to stir them up; but with the aid of Mr. Cook, her efforts have been successful and there is now a sewer.

In spite of these drawbacks the place is not unhealthy, probably owing to its open surroundings. Mrs. D. has had much better health here than in Chelsea or Maypole.

The ground landlord is the & Ecclesiastical Commission.

Many of the 50 families take in lodgers and the houses are terribly crowded: from five houses come no fewer than 57 children!

The people are utter heathens. They never dreamed of going to any place of worship. Charles Towne has done something for them. He has given the place over to Mr. Campbell, a kind clayman, who now, I wish him long

Religion.

on Sunday. He is assisted by his sister Mrs. Ricardo.

Drink.

Education

There are four Public Schools, all doing a good trade; the women don't earn more than the men. The plan has put him working in a funeral with loads some of Sweetness.

Upon Mrs. Rose's case the children never went to school at all; people came here with the idea of evading the office. The difficulties of learning attendance have been great, and there is no family which has not had a child sent to a private school. Now reach the higher Standard, and all learn & directly they are 13; yet many of them are bright and intelligent. Paul Mrs. P. notices an improvement in the new generation; they are passing off respectably trying to wear collars and are ashamed to be bootless. Her since she came Mrs. P. has had writing desks; they are all last trying to be successful, but the

lads than she had at first she found
quite hopeless.

The new school was opened last year; it
is an excellent building, with two unusually
good playgrounds.

Marriage:

Marriage is very early: often at 16 or 17;
nearly always for finishing reasons. There is
a complete absence of purity, and it seems
impossible to teach it while there is such
herding.

Relief

They have been with charitable relief
here. Mrs. Brown has not been able to afford
it, and no one else has been near them.
There have however been donations from the children
to the number of about 50 a day in the winter.
Mrs. Brown knows who about each home and
takes care that they only go to the right children.
Doubtless too have been sent down and given away
but have always been passed on below.

Mrs. Ricardo is now doing a little in relief

through Mrs. Brown, but gives no money.

Mrs. Brown is really a most excellent
and much owl lady. In this bright spot
she has evidently been the only winning influence
and at last her work is beginning to tell. To
her young people she is a sort of earthly
providence and father confessor, and they
evidently have for 'Governess' as they call her,
the greatest respect and affection. She finds
that harshness does not pay, and rules them
entirely by love.

May 25

Parikh notes
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Interview with Mr. Oakley, 22 Devonshire
Road, Guernsey:-

Mr. Oakley is the Master of the
People's Road Board School, Isle of Dogs. He has
been there since 1876, and previously was Head
Master & for six years of St. John's (Isle of Dogs)
Voluntary School. During that time he lived on
the island.

Mr. Oakley is about 50. He is a pleasant
cheerful man, but he was not very forcitive
and much that he told me was from repetition
of previous interviews.

Poverty.

The eastern side of the Island is and always
has been better off than the western side. Then
has been a great improvement in the last three years.
The only bad streets are Somada H. Davis St and
Stewart St.: from them come all the toothless
and half-clad boys in the school.

The Dock work has been more regular lately

Dust.

Housing ch.

Ramsey.

and James' banner has much ruined.

There is a slow improvement. The Bands
of Hope are doing good; but there are three
times as many houses as wanted.

The new houses when basements are not
allowed are all right, but many of the old
houses bad.

Mr. Calkin has been through three floods.
In the first in 1872 his school was in
a basement and he and his scholars only
just got out in time to avoid being drowned.

The island is wonderfully healthy: the
only part it seems to affect seriously is the
throat: my new comers suffer from this
throat and has to get acclimated. There
are no poor voices in the schools.

Ramsey is nothing like so early as it used
to be.

Religion.

Lorax and his associates are doing excellent work; without any undue influence he gets good cooperation, entirely of working people. His activity too has led on the dissenters, who are much more active than they were. As far as Mr O. can judge the influence of the monks is good. They have got hold of many of the rougher boys at the school and have certainly improved them.

Mr O. remembers the time when there were probably not so in the three churches in the island a hundred, and are now the two other churches are almost empty. Mr Threlkell is quite past his work but draws well for his & schools, which have always been excellent.

Relief.

For two years there has been no scarcity for children's drawings at this school.

Ammunition.

No word one hears that the people are football mad; but Mr O. does not think their interest in the game has led to any

incubator in the dorm for play.

The School has cricket and football teams which have been very successful.

Almost the only place of entertainment the people go to is the Queen's, which used to be scarpely low, but may be improved.

Mr Oakley is a churchman and a man of religious character. He conducts a mission service in French every Sunday.

John Harrington, Builder & Master Stevedore

Poor streets & rents.

Drink.

The Irish.

Improvement in Poplar.

Just as much work as formerly.

Miscell
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S.H.D

June 4th

Mr John Harrington, 12, Bowen Street, Crisp Street
Poplar. A man of about 65; born in Poplar.

6/- or 7/- per wk for 5 rooms in Sophia & Rook
streets: each house probably has 2 or 3
families. These are the worst streets in Poplar.
Rough & poor

Increased wages have led to increased drink. Drink is the
cause. All the churches try now to do something
& do good but it is a drop in the ocean.

Irish poor turn up to mass but they are commanded
to do so by their church. Wishes Anglicans would enforce
churchgoing in the same way.

As a master stevedore he employed many Irish; they are
rascals but they have a knack of clever storage
when buying his son would employ as many as 80.
Great improvement in the district among the poor. Upper
class has moved out. The top is not so rich but
the bottom is not so poor.

Just as much work as ever for stevedores. Steamers take
larger cargoes & come back quicker than they
used to do.

Marriages

marriages early, about 21 for both sexes. He knows of men who cohabit before marriage and of a perhaps larger number who have connection but it is not by any means the usual thing.

Poor relief.

Poor out-relief is given too easily now. Mr H was in favour of greater latitude formerly when Poplar was a strict Union but he would never have allowed so much so easily as it is given now. He used to be a guardian himself. The old argument was that you did away with self reliance by granting out-relief, this is true if you give too much, but he thinks it used to be pushed too far.

Criticism of Labour men.

Now there is a reaction & guardians have gone to the other extreme. No doubt it is part of the socialist programme of men like Lansbury. Lansbury a great talker, but him up, he will go on for the hour. So will Crooks but Crooks is a better man than Lansbury, a soberer man, "a trade union man". Lansbury wishes to transfer wealth from

from the pockets of those that have to those that have not & is contented with doing it anyhow. He did not think labour men were satisfactory public workers though somewhat inclined to make an exception in favour of Cooks.

"Labour men are easier to get at; I do not say they are worse than other men; but less temptation will turn them aside than is sufficient for a man in better circumstances. Then they are apt to put the best talkers rather than the best workers into jobs."

Dock work is rather more regular now. Stevedores labourers get 8/- an hour for a full day of 9 hours & 1/- per hour overtime. The effect of the Great Strike was to send many of the strikers at once into the workhouse. "There is much labour that would be employable at lower rates now doing nothing in the work house." These labourers have all been going in for direct labour & the consequence is that a man in the house can't do anything at all; surely it was better to let an old

car.

Favoritism.

Labour & strikes

carpenter or painter do a bit of work rather than allow a lot of outside men to come in & do it. These direct labourers are paid by the hour & "hang out the jobs", introducing in-discipline into a place where discipline is supposed to prevail.

Education "has turned out a lot of clever boys, no doubt about that, but it has decreased respectability." wished religion was taught in the schools "Perhaps I speak with feeling but a man of mine had his head cut open by boys throwing stones on coming out of school." If you gave them some religion boys would be easier to deal with & quiet.

Church work. Chandles & Carroll are doing a good deal "These high church fellows" seem to be getting hold of the people. So do the Catholics - He does not hear much of the Nonconformists.

Rents. In Woodstock Rd rents are about £50 per year. In E. India Dock Rd. they vary from £40 to £60 : the tenant in both cases paying rents & taxes.

Rents in Bowen Street 9/- per week (London paying rates & taxes) for 6 roomed houses. In Galle Street (Fenian barrack ground) rents are 6/- or 7/- per week. Population there

Amusements

there very rag. Have the reputation of pulling every thing to pieces. Houses are let in halves there he thinks, and are occupied by 3 or 4 families. There are no amusements except one music stall. Public house the great resort. Much harm done by spirit drinking. The labourer's tipple is beer but that of the man slightly above him is whiskey. The whiskey sold is fine & unwholesome stuff.

Mr Harrington's appearance.

Mr. Harrington a man of about 65; a slow & cautious speaker afraid of committing himself: took away a copy of Form E in order to send written answers: born in Poplar: medium height, dark beard turning a yellow grey, baldish head with the long side hair drawn across to conceal its nakedness: was a master stevedore & is a jibbing builder & house owner: has given over the stevedore business to his son who formerly acted as his manager: portly with black shabby waistcoat, frock coat & top hat: very friendly & pleased to think he had given any useful information but afraid it had been too rambling. Now lives at Plaistow. A wild gallawess about the moustache & hair on the lower lip blotteden pipe smoking.

June 10th.Miscell
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CP (2)

The Lincolnshire Philanthropic Society:-

I have called there times on Mr Hagon the Secy. of the L.P.S. twice & appointed without success, as Mr H. is a truly busy man who appears to be at work from about 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. I imagine however that there is little or nothing to say about the Society, which has been in existence for 53 years, and is of the old fashioned, ticklishing character. The whole list of its operations last year is contained in the following extract from the Report:-

Four Hundred and Forty recommendation papers for Relief were received, and the cases visited and relieved. The amounts distributed being £90 7s., as against £97 18s. last year.

The detailed amounts of Receipts and Expenditure, duly audited, are appended.

June 1st

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MQD

The Poplar Penitent and Accident Relief Society:-

In regard to the history of this Society has also twice disappointed me. The Society is of similar a character to the Anchorage, but on rather a larger scale. The following extract from the Report adequately explain its ~~its~~ methods:-

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

The Committee of the above Society have the pleasure of presenting to you their 50th Annual Report, together with the statement of accounts for the past year, ending Lady-Day, 1896.

The Society have distributed by Shilling Tickets relief to the amount of £258 16s. Od., each subscriber having received during the year 15 for distribution. By means of the Pension Fund five old couples and five single persons have received respectively 5s. and 3s. weekly during the winter months, the total sum of money spent in this way being £52 8s. Od., proving a source of help to many poor families in dire distress. Accident relief to the amount of £1 10s. Od. was also given bringing up the TOTAL AMOUNT TO £312 14s. Od.

With the present report concludes the Jubilee Year of the Society. The value of the work that has been performed cannot be over-estimated. The objects and aims of the institution have been so often set forth in these pages that a repetition of them would be superfluous. During the period under review, thousands of people have been relieved, and many a bright ray has penetrated the darkness of homes otherwise given over to the blackness of despair. A reference to the respect board will show that upwards of £8,600, or an average of £172 per annum, has been expended in relief, and mainly by means of one shilling tickets.

(C)②

S.H.D.

July 1.

Carr Street Mission.Mis. Blatch. Mission Woman. St. Matthews. Carr St.
Mission. 42 Carr Street.Has been in the St. Matthews Parish 7 yrs. Here in
Carr St. since Xmas.Mr. Franey is now Scripture Reader in place
of Mr. Oldham who left last Xmas & has gone to Hackney.
Mr. Oldham used to reside here.Mr. Franey lives in 74 Salmon Lane - he
has been in the dist. since Xmas. He came
from the lay workers in Commercial Rd.Mothers meeting. 40 in the book. About 20 come regular.
Great many mothers have shift work out from
mainly in Canal or Copperfield Road.

Childrens Band of Hope on Tuesdays.

Working Mens Club. with about 20 to 30 members.

Services.

Sunday Services - nothing in the morn'g exc. Communion on 4th Sunday in the month at 9.30. am. gen. get 9 or 10 all women exc. perhaps 1 or 2 men. Sunday School every Sunday at 3. for children, just 50 come - 8 classes. of 8 or 10 each. The infants have the Chapel (part of the premises next door). Six o'clock Service for children. You can get the chil'dren to morning service here. Parents won't get out of bed: even as it is many chil'dren come without their dinners.

7 PM service for adults. 18 or 20 come - 3 or 4 being men. The congregation in every case is drawn from the neighbouring streets.

Some improvement.

The District

Dockers Garden Party

Distinctly greatly improved. Formerly she hardly dared walk down the street. There is still a great deal to be done. She qualified this about the improvement later, saying 'it was no worse.' Not much difference between any spot in this district. Just about the same class in each street & const. Carr St & Eastfield St no better than John's Gardens.

Hove Band a Paths. "The Dockers' Girls Party" one fortnight

or once in 3 weeks. About 35 come of whom 17 are children
& the rest are wives, sisters - no children. It begins at
7 P.M to 9.30. Entertainment at 8. following a free
tea.

Childrens Farthing breakfast.

In the winter & breakfasts are given in the Parish Room in the
York road now. 2 slices of bread & butter & coffee at 8 a.m.
3 times a week. 3 chrs of a family time for 2d. Does not
nearly pay its way it is important to make the people
pay something

Nature of the inhabitants.

Chief part of these men in the district are casual Dockers,
& coal porters. All are casual. There is no regular worker in the
neighbourhood. People move from street to street very often
but don't leave the dist.

Miss Match. (working under Miss Macfarther for Leningrad)
does round collecting for a parochial clothing fund.
Find the people very honest. They pay up instalments
that have been paid for them. The language is the
worst thing in the place. She collected £2 last week.

Many of the men are fishers in addition to being Dockers.

Women's work.

Not much immorality in proportion to the number of the people.
 Great many factory girls employed at Allens Chocolate
 factory & at Batgers (may go to Bis). and Hill &
 Jones. Girls are only fair in character. There is a
 sewing class for them at the York Road. They earn enough.
 All on piecework. Some are so much quicker than others
 that wages vary greatly. The fruit season the best time.

Language & drink the curses.

Language & drink are the curses of the District. Much
 women's drinking. Mondays & Tuesdays after Bank Holiday
 are women's days. On the Mondays ^(Bank Holiday) they are taken
 out of pawn ^{they} go janty. on the Tuesdays they put
 them away again & spend the money on drink.

Other Religious work.

Coxane's Hall in Samuel Street belongs to Barbados.
 Have mothers meeting & Hand of Hope there.
 A little mission in Conder St belonging to Stepney Temple.
 Salvation Army make no way. Their Chapel used to be a Salvation Hall.
 Have a fair share of this here.

Public houses in the District

The Exmouth arms in Heron St (Mrs Anderson) is the
 best kept pub in the neighbourhood. The Cobden

In Repton St. is noisy & noted for drunken women. Great many
two way pubs in the Dist. Not a coffee house in the
place until you come to the other end of Salmons Lane.

Indifference to religion

No antagonism but much indifference to religion. Go so &
ask them to come to church. They promise right enough
& then when the time comes "They have some idle ~~excuse~~"

Roman Catholics

Good few Roman Catholics here but they don't seem to appreciate
this religion.

Mr. Scawellyn is a very good man. Has tried every way - House
to house visiting etc. Is not particular that the
Sick & those who stay away from Sunday school
should be visited. If a child stays away twice he
is at once visited. Roll of communicants pretty
increased. He is not a high Churchman it's what I
call comfortable! There is a suppedie choir but not
anything else.

District Visiting

'Comfortable' doctrine

C.O.S. do a good deal. Vicar is on their Committee.

They have a chapel, a working men's club, and a garden

C.O.S.

this house the Chapel was formerly used by the Salvation army meeting house but the army has so little success that they took it over from them.

The importance of clothes to churchgoers.

Slop work.

Well doing in small ways.

Church going & school going are very much a matter of clothes. Women will come to the mission services who would not go to church. In the same way want of clothes makes many children truant. A child with better clothes laughs at those with worse than himself. It is very hard on the widows in the district who have schoolchildren - they work away at trousers, shirts and juvenile shirts & hardly gain at living. It enough to make you cry to see them sometimes. This sloop work is increasing in the district.

What does most good are the small things. A competition of dried flowers gave a great impetus to the window gardening in the district. You want to give the people an interest that is not the public house.

Miss Blatch.

Parish boundaries.

Miss Blatch is a small spare woman of the servant class. Capable. Brought up in Essex. Probably better able to understand the women of the district for not being too much above them.

The Parish runs up the West side of the canal as far as Marion St (only the S. side) & west as far as White Horse St.

July 1st.

Panjab
11/18 A(2)

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Interview with Miss Jane Burrell:-

Burrell

Miss Burrell is a member of the Steppes and Sindona C.O.S. also one of the S.P.D. for the Lahore district. M.C. of the C.H.F. school-board manager etc. She has taken a house in the East India Road to keep her book, but unfortunately with the idea of saving me trouble she asked me to call on her at the central office of the C.H.F. in Parknallam St. The room was full of people and she was evidently very busy, so that I found it impossible to get much of any value. Anything she said applies especially to the Lahore district.

Character of population.

I am sure she has known it this district has been as bad as possible and Miss B. has little improvement. Sometimes the things are better, sometimes not. East-ford St. is as bad as any street in London, and

~~Unit.~~

~~Education~~

~~Religion.~~

nothing can possibly be worse than York
Buildings on Maroon St.

As to drink traps have certainly been
worn down the last year especially among
the women! The people lately have been doing
well, and the money all goes in drink.

In spite of the efforts of the officers
there is a terrible amount of truancy, and
a good many children manage to escape altogether.
The people shift so from court to
court and house to house. The managers are
however affecting a great improvement in the
appearance of them who come to school,
washing, mending their hair, washed etc. The
only school which has a thoroughly low
standard is Dr Bernardo's which has a
bad influence. They make no effort to
inhibit or to reprobate idleness and vulgarity.

Miss French thinks that these people
attend no place of worship; she went

to Edinburgh laste eve to see if they
were there, and found a congregation of (apparently)
ladies and gentlemen. The only man who
seems to have got hold of them at all is
Mr. Wharn [Mr. Newbold] Mr. Haden's
(spare) Scripture reader, who has a missie
in Carr St. Mr. Haden's parish was
tenuously supported upon his name. The last vicar
from the people up in despair, and dropped
any sort of organisation. Haden, who was
formerly Curate at St. Ann's (Gordon),
seems to be working hard.

Relief.

The district has been rather pampered
by Mr. May Abbott, Kensington, who took it
up and sent a lot of money down. Mr.
Newbold, Lower, who had the administration
of it, is finding it necessary to draw in his
horns, and is marking his whip on strict
lines, though he still gives too many
dinners.

Mr. Haden when at St. Ann's was

sympathetic with the C.O.S. but how
refuses to work with them on the pha-
thal. None of his people come up to their
standard.

Health.

In spite of the conditions under
which the people live their health is
horribly good; ~~among~~ the children especially
seen through and acting; lots of fair &
long runs down to the Derby every year.



