B 188

No. 18.

Hackney & South Hackney.

Miscellaneous.

District

No. 13.

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

District 13 - Book XVIII

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The Churches.

July 20th

1

C S

Interview with Miss Davis (C.O.S.)
4 High St. Homerton.

Miss Davis has only been secretary of the C.O.S. in this district for eight months. Her information is therefore rather limited in character and is based largely on notes left by the late secretary, whom I propose to see also.

Miss Davis is a bright intelligent exceedingly energetic lady, evidently keen about C.O.S. views though a member of the Christian Social Union.

So far as possible I went through the parishes with Miss Davis one by one, and got some estimate of the clergy and the character of the district. As to the district taken as a whole the verdict is that Hackney is gradually getting poorer, and that there is not a single parish to which this does not apply to some extent.

Eton Mission, Hackney Wick :- This is the

the poorest and most degraded district in Hackney, and there has probably been no change since our map was made. Mr Donaldson and his clergy are a tremendously active, and there is a great deal doing, but very doubtful whether the effect is great. They work a good deal with the C. O. S. and in cases which they have once brought upon the Society are always loyal to its advice, but they give a great deal in doles without reference to the Society. As I feel here as is usually the case with mission work "the worse you are the better you are treated".

St Augustine's, Victoria Park :- Mr Barker is a very hard working man: a good deal cramped by want of money. The whole of the parish is getting poorer except the East end which remains much the same. See very little of his charitable work.

South Hackney :- Mr Lennard is an active sensible man very careful in his methods of relief: his opinion is always worth taking. His Curates work well. The Pelham Road and

Priory place corner remains as poor as ever
and the streets on the other side of Wells St.
are showing a tendency to become very poor, especially
Balcorne St.

Christ Church :- Mr Walker has
very bad health and has been away most
of the time Miss Davis has been here; she
has been quite ill: but his curates Mr
Cox and Mr Steinmetz seem excellent men.
They have a whist committee and cooperate
with the C.O.S. This is a very hopeful
parish. The poorer streets in this parish are
not in the Hackney C.O.S. district.

St Michael's London Fields :- Mr Marcon
is rather a pompous person, and does not
know much about his people. Mr Pennick the
Scripture Reader is the practical force in the
parish. This district remains much as it was.
Duncan Sq. is the worst bit.

St Paul's and the Saints, Haggerston :- only
corners of these parishes are in Hackney, and we
shall hear more of them from Hoxton C.O.S.

Holy Trinity, Dalston :- About half this parish is in No. 13. Mr Knapp is about the most sensible parson in the district; he is very active and works well with the C.O.S. The whole of this Dalston district is becoming a working instead of a middle class district.

St Marks, West Hackney :- Mr Sanders has a great opinion of himself and his work, which is fairly good; but he does not devote much time to his parish as he is incessantly going about to meetings of metropolitan and national societies. The parish is still well-to-do with the exception of streets to the west of Kingsland Road which are not in this district. A very large number of Jews live in the immediate neighbourhood of Dalston Junction.

St John's Hackney (the parish church) :- Mr Gardiner has had a slight stroke of paralysis and is physically quite unfit for the work. He never answers letters and is very difficult to see. A wretched man of business. His curates are fairly good but they are

priests before anything else. Has a parochial council nominally on C.O.S. lines, but do very bad work. Have a large band of lady visitors who go about giving 1/ doles. Chalgrove Road is still dark blue, and the people in the courts off Mare St are rather drunken and thriftless

St Luke's :- A very active parish. Sends cases to the C.O.S. and has curate on committee but give a great deal on their own account. The whole of the parish is poor and parts very poor especially the Hockley St corner, which is now dark instead of light blue

St Barnabas, Homerton :- Mr Blatch is a sensible man with a good steady head. Mrs Blatch is very vigorous and probably worth two curates, but she is not so sensible as her husband. They work with the C.O.S. but often help cases which could help themselves. There is little change in this parish and parts of it are still semi-criminal.

Ram's Chapel :- Dr Hamilton, the only old fashioned evangelical in the district : does not

work with C.O.S.

All Souls and All Saints :- Mr Fletcher and Mr Hankins are very much alike in the character of their work ; both are active and know their people well. Both send cases to the C.O.S. and Mr Fletcher is Chairman, but both give a lot in ~~dole~~ doles. This Millfields district is going down very rapidly and All Souls would now be nearly all that. Pedro St. is about the worst street.

St James' Clapton :- Mr Gardner Brown has only been a short time : he is a good parish man. In the past the parish has been very bad, and there was no organisation of any kind.

Christ Church, Clapton :- Mr Sankey is fairly active, but is not strict in his methods of relief ; the only poor bit in the parish, Ramies Island, is not in this district.

The remaining clergy named by this committee are in district 14.

Of the Non-Conformists the C.O.S. see and know

little: few of them will help the society in any way. Miss Davis believes that this is due not so much to antagonism to the principles of the society as to the fact that it is mainly a clerical committee and the Church and the Non-Cons. will not work together even in charity. Partly also the non-cons. require the assistance of the society much less: the indifferents to religion from whom the applicants for relief are almost invariably drawn always go to the clergy of the Church of England, and are sent on by them.

The Non-Cons of whom Miss Davis had anything to report are:-

Lower Clapton Congregational:- do a tremendous amount of work and are very sensible. Have two missions in Homerton.

New Gravel Pit Unitarian:- Mr Williams is a capital man. Two good people to give information are Miss Gibbs and Mrs Green, Tudor House, Darnley Road.

Clapton Park Tabernacle:- Mr Jackson is

active, energetic, and easy to work with.

Catholic Apostolic :- only work among their own people : are probably dwindling.

Baptist Chapel, Mare St :- do a great deal of work : wont work with C.O.S.

St Thomas' Sq. Presbyterian :- Mrs Corby of 263 Mare St is an active worker and knows her people well.

Chatsworth Road :- Mr Moxon is a typical Minister : gives much in doles.

The Salvation Army :- the adherents about here are an excellent lot : probably better than in most districts owing to the neighbourhood of the Congress Hall. On occasions when the committee has had to refer to them have always found them strictly upright, which is more than can be said for many members of the churches.

As to the general question of the influence of religion Miss Davis pleaded that she had not been here sufficiently long to form an opinion : she said however that the religious

Drink.

bodies have evidently transcendently active, with apparently a rather small result.

Miss Davis' opinion on this point is of course based more on observation of other parts of London in which she has worked than on experience gained in Hackney. It is the usual opinion that there is no increase among men and a great increase among women and especially among those of the middle and lower middle class: this she attributes partly to grocers licenses, and partly to the refreshment-rooms in all the large drapers and stores which even if they have not a license sell always stand out for drink. The old-fashioned idea that it is in any way shameful for women to go into a public house is completely breaking down.

The efforts to promote temperance among the young by Bands of Hope is largely frustrated owing to the feeble management. The children are not made to regard their pledge as anything

Poor Law

Thrift.

Housing.

Services: they attend mostly for play and treats.

The administration of the Poor Law is very weak but improving: a great deal of inadequate out-relief is given.

The treatment of those in the House has become much more humane; ~~but~~ at present there is no tendency to undue luxury. The Master the Master is an excellent man.

A very large amount of money is put into the Banks etc of the Churches but they would do much better if they would collect instead of making the people come to pay in: only those who are naturally thrifty like do this: the thriftless must be visited if they are to save anything. The Society is starting a Collecting Bank.

Trinity Court is certainly an insanitary area, and some of the houses in Jamies'

Charitable Relief

Island are unfit for habitation, especially in Millington St.

Hackney probably compares favourably with many districts.

The Hackney Benevolent Society is a carefully managed concern which gives pensions on the voting system, and there is no real enquiry into the merits of the recipients.

The C.O.S. committee is mainly clerical and local. It is a mistake to have a clerical chairman. Men are no working men members: they are not fit for it.

July 28 - J.A.

Miscell 13/3 CD

Mr. H. J. Bradford, Secretary of the Hackney Benevolent Society.

This Society has been established 59 years, & has for its object the giving of old age pensions to deserving householders & others in Hackney.

There are 3 classes of pensioners:-

1st Ratepayers & subscribers to the Society of not less than 10/- per annum for 7 years, who receive £16 per annum.

2nd Ratepayers for 7 years in succession, but not subscribers, who receive £12 a year; also servants who have lived in the parish & in one situation for 7 years, who receive a like amount.

3rd Persons living in almshouses & having not more than 2/6 per week endowment, who may have £8 a year from the Society.

Small pensions may be also granted, at the discretion of the Committee, to the widows of former pensioners.

No one under 60 years of age, or who is, or has been, in receipt of parochial relief, is eligible, & any person who, while in receipt of the pension, receives parish relief, will forfeit the pension.

Altogether, 266 persons have received pensions from the Society, amounting to £22,280, & at present there are 57 pensioners, who receive an annual payment of £700.

Elections to the pensions take place every half year, by vote of the subscribers, the number to be elected depending on vacancies caused by death or on special circumstances. A subscription of 10/- a year has 2 votes at each election, a donor of £5 four votes for life, & various other sums entitle to a corresponding number of votes.

The Society is managed by the usual officers & committee, elected annually at a meeting of subscribers, & including several prominent residents.

Last years receipts reached £715, wh. subscriptions produced £355, dividends £287, & donations £73. The expenditure was £764 — £708 in pensions & the rest in working expenses.

The Society hopes to make a big effort at its "Diamond jubilee" next year.

Mr. Bradford has been Secretary of the Society for 9 years, & connected with it for many years previously. He has a high opinion of its usefulness, & wishes it could be largely extended, for there are always a large number of worthy applicants who are disappointed.

Mr. B. is a grocer, & has carried on business in this Rd., Clapton, for 30 years. He is an elderly man of quite the tradesman type — pleasant & affable, but with no force of character, & with very few ideas outside his business & the charitable work of Hackney, wh. is his

hobby – at least so far as the collecting of money goes – I shd. be doubtful of his administrative powers. He has 3 or 4 charity or hospital collecting boxes in his shop, & his great delight is in getting money for these. To this end he has several catchpenny devices. He has a directory wh. may be consulted by putting 1d in the hospital box, will cash a bank note on the same terms, or give a little card timetable, wh. is I suppose a trading adot. Says he collects about £60 a year in one way or another.* Recently he borrowed a large model 'bus & displayed it in his window, with a begging ticket, & in this way got 730 pennies put into a box at the door.

There is I shd say a little of the "pleasure with business" combination about it all. He gets a good deal of the trade in charity tickets for his district, &

* With part of this money he obtains hospital letters, wh. he distributes to applicants on payment of 1/-, wh. goes into the box for more letters.

BAPTISMS.

"They brought young children to Him, that He should touch them."

June 2. Lawrence Victor, son of George John and Elizabeth Taverner Kelly, 7 Gomer Terrace.
" 6. Isabel May, daughter of Alfred Joseph and Minnie Gertrude Sydenham, 118 Manor Road.
" " Dorothy May, daughter of George Alfred and Ellen Heath, 7 Prout Road.
" 9. Florence Jessie, daughter of John William and Agnes Jane Rutland, 6 Millfields Road.
" 13. Eleanor Louisa, daughter of John and Helen Head, 40 Chalgrove Road.
" 27. Gertrude, daughter of Charles and Rebecca King, 3 Pear Tree Place.
" 30. John Edward, son of John Henry and Anna Maria Williams, 7 Lea Bridge Road.
" " Grace Elizabeth, daughter of Christopher D'oyle and Elizabeth Ellen Reeve, 3 Russell Terrace.

Two adults were baptized on Sunday, June 20th.

OFFERTORIES LAST MONTH.

			£	s.	d.
June 6. *Whitsun Day.*	6.30 a.m.	Queen Victoria Clergy Sustentation Fund.	0	14	8
	8.0 a.m.	" " "	2	4	3
	11.0 a.m.	Sick and Poor.	4	3	2
	3.0 p.m.	Q.V. Clergy Fund.	0	5	6
	7.0 p.m.	" " "	4	6	9
" 7. *Whit Monday.*	7.30 a.m.	Choir Fund.	0	2	1
" 8. *Whit Tuesday.*	7.30 a.m.	" "	0	2	0
" 11. *S. Barnabas.*	7.30 a.m.	" "	0	1	6
" 13. *Trinity Sunday.*	8.0 a.m.	" "	0	7	2
	(Brooke House) 10 a.m.	S. James' Sunday School Excursion.	5	7	5
	11.0 a.m.	Church Expenses.	3	3	3
	3.0 p.m.	Choir Fund.	0	3	7
	7.0 p.m.	Church Expenses.	2	5	9
" 20. *1st Sun. af. Trin.*	8.0 a.m.	Hospital Sun. Fund.	0	13	3
	11.0 a.m.	" " "	11	12	9
	3.0 p.m.	" " "	0	5	8
	7.0 p.m.	" " "	6	17	6
" 24. *S. John Baptist.*	7.30 a.m.	Choir Fund.	0	4	0
" 27. *2nd Sun. af. Trin.*	8.0 a.m.	" "	0	4	1
	11.0 a.m.	Church Expenses.	2	13	7
	3.0 p.m.	Choir Fund.	0	4	3
	7.0 p.m.	Church Expenses.	2	6	3
" 29. *S. Peter, A. & M.*	7.30 a.m.	S.P.G.	0	2	7
Total for the month			£48	11	0

St. James, Clapton

CALENDAR FOR THE MONTH. (July)

1	Th	Band of Hope, 6.30.
2	F	Mattins and Litany, 11. Choir Practice, 8.
3	S	
4	S	**3rd Sunday after Trinity.** H.C., 8 & Midday. Other Services, 11, 3, 7.
5	M	Mothers' Meetings' Annual Excursion. Sunday School Teachers' Meeting, 8.
6	Tu	
7	W	Mattins & Litany, 11. Evensong & Sermon, 8.
8	Th	Churchworkers' Party at Vicarage, 5.30—9.
9	F	Mattins and Litany, 11. Choir Practice, 8.
10	S	
11	S	**4th Sunday after Trinity.** H.C., 8. Other Services, 11, 3, 7.
12	M	Sunday School Teachers' Meeting, 8.
13	Tu	
14	W	Mattins & Litany, 11. Evensong & Sermon, 8.
15	Th	Sunday and Day School Annual Excursion.
16	F	Mattins and Litany, 11. Choir Practice, 8.
17	S	
18	S	**5th Sunday after Trinity.** H.C., 8 & Midday. Other Services, 11, 3, 7.
19	M	Sunday School Teachers' Meeting, 8.
20	Tu	
21	W	Mattins and Litany, 11. Evensong & Sermon, 8.
22	Th	Band of Hope, 6.30.
23	F	Mattins and Litany, 11. Choir Practice, 8.
24	S	Short Service of Intercession, 5.30.
25	S	S. James, Ap. & M. **6th Sunday after Trinity.** H.C., 6.30, 8 (choral), & Midday. Sermon in Morning by Rector of Hackney; Evening by Bishop of Newcastle. Offertories for Church Renovation Fund. Flower Service, 3 p.m.
26	M	Sunday School Teachers' Meeting, 8.
27	Tu	Missionary Garden Meeting, at Vicarage, 7.
28	W	Mattins & Litany, 11. Evensong (choral), 8. Sermon by Vicar.
29	Th	
30	F	Mattins & Litany, 11. Choir Practice, 8.
31	S	

CHARDIN & GORICK, Printers, High Road, Clapton.

his methods are probably a good standing advertisement.

As general parish affairs he seems to take but little but could probably tell anything we want to know about the charities of Hackney. There are 48 of these, Spurstowe being the best. This includes part of Graham Rd & several streets off it, & when the leases fall in will be an exceedingly valuable property. At present it only has the ground rents.

In the Clapton district the richer people have gone out & made room for a decent middle class. Almost immediately opposite his shop (wh. is in the Lower Clapton Rd. near corner of Downs Rd.), & old houses, standing in their own grounds, were pulled down, & fully 200 middle class dwellings erected. This is within the last 10 to 15 years.

Mr. B. & his son are prominent

members of St. James Church, Clapton, who is near by. The late vicar was ill for a good while & could do little. The Rev. Gardner Brown has the vicar about 1½ years. He is energetic, & works well after the poor colony on the banks of the Lea, at Lea Bridge, where the church has a mission room.

The St. James' Parish Magazine, of which he gave me the July number, shows a good amount of activity. There are 4 or 5 services on Sunday, & 2 services every day. There are day & Sunday schools, Girls classes, Band of Hope, Ladies working guild, coal club, clothing club, maternity club, &c.

There are 2 curates & 2 licensed lay readers.

The monthly programme is subjoined:—

July 27th

Miscell 13/4

CB

37

Interview with Mr Chisham and others:

Mr Chisham is the Hon. Sec. of the Hackney Teetotal Evidence Society. I found that he had got quite a deputation to meet me consisting of Mr Ramsom, a Salvation Army baker, Mr West, a smale grocer, and a greengrocer whose name I did not catch. Mr Chisham himself is a grocer's assistant at a shop in Well St. These four with some others form the Committee of the Society which was formed 13 months ago: it consists of about 25 members, all of whom are small tradesmen or working men. The object of the Society is to "go for the drink" which they are profoundly convinced is the root of nearly all the poverty and misery around them. Their work is organised largely in opposition to the Socialists who are constantly telling the people that the capitalist and the constitution of society are at the root of the trouble, whereas the members of this society, all of whom are poor and have lived in the slums are convinced

that never were the working classes earning so much, and yet that owing to their fearful expenditure on drink they were never worse off than they are now. The method the Society adopts for spreading its propaganda & is the holding of open air meetings, chiefly in Victoria Park: at the start they took a Hall but found it too expensive. It is obvious that the Society is in a very small way, nor with so many other temperance organisations about does it seem likely to make a deep impression: but these men are all such excellent fellows, and so tremendously in earnest, that though they are fanatics on the Drink question ~~what~~ one cannot but feel that their efforts must have some effect.

Of the four men Mr Chisham is the least able, but the most fluent talker. Mr West and Mr Ranson are both splendid fellows and the Greengrover is a pleasant cheery fellow with less education than the others. All are strongly religious men, connected closely with some religious organisation.

Our conversation which lasted about two hours

Drink.

was very deadly in character, and I took no notes, so that it is difficult to report.

Apart from their extravagant estimate of the effects of drink on poverty the men struck me as thoroughly sensible and their evidence on that and other points I believe to be more reliable than much that we hear. Their point of view is that of the religious working man.

In South Hackney as all events drink has enormously increased of late years, especially among women: Some of the Lanes and especially those in the neighbourhood of London Fields are full of women on Monday mornings. All these men are comparatively young men and Londoners, but all agree that in their youth only the most degraded women went into a public house without shame; now the most respectable women habitually do so, and young women when out with their young men nearly always go into a pub.

The shoemakers of whom there are an enormous number in South Hackney are very heavy drinkers:

While another reason for increased drink both among men and women is the extension of working Men's Clubs, most of which are open drinking dens and depend upon drink for their existence.

By improving the appearance of the houses both inside and out, and by multiplying the number of bars the brewer has greatly added to the temptation and has made it much easier for respectable people to go into them.

The Society estimate that of every 25/- earned by working men 5/- is spent in drink, and that at least 75 per cent of the poverty of London is due to this cause: they are therefore much pained and even vexed at the statement in "Life and Labour" that not more than 14 per cent is directly due to this cause: these figures are always being thrown in their face by the Socialists, and they feel sure that if we both saw as much of the poor as they do he would realise that he is wrong.

Yet another cause of increased expenditure in drink is the excessive cheapness of the necessaries of life: less of nutrition can be bought in milk &c

Police.

for 2d a lb. Nearly all the additional margin which is then left goes in drink.

There is not the smallest doubt that the police, almost to a man, inspectors and all are squared by the publicans. The members of the society have made it their business to watch hours at closing time, and they affirm that the police are then regularly given a drink, and practically at any other time that they like it. The result is that though they unnecessarily see people coming out rolling with drink no publican is ever prosecuted for serving drunken men. For an individual to attempt to prosecute is useless, the publican and the postman always swear that the man was not drunk, and the police always give the house a good character. Mr Chisham once ventured to speak to a policeman as to a house close to him which was open serving people at 3.15 on Sunday: he was told to mind his own business or he would get a broken head.

The police are also in the pay of the bookmakers

Influence of religion.

and with few exceptions but themselves: it is well known to the police that almost every shade tobacconist, newsagent, and barber is a bookmaker or bookmaker's agent. Yet none are ever prosecuted except on the complaint of someone who has been robbed or on an urgent representation from the clergy or some person of influence.

The only religious organisations which directly touches and reclaims the really poor are the Salvation Army, (this was stated by Mr West who is a Baptist, and agreed to by all) and the Quaker missions worked by people of their own class. The poor are never really religiously touched by those who are their superiors socially and by education: they must have a religion preached to them which is absolutely simple, plain and direct: the poor who go to churches, chapels, mothers meetings etc. go simply for what they can get. The clergy and ministers, men like Donaldson, Barnes and Bernard are all mostly taken in, and have no spiritual influence at all among the poor. Yet they do

Relations of sexes.

much good with their social work by keeping people out of the streets and public houses.

Mr Chisham said that a large number of Mrs Lennard's relief tickets went through his hands, and that they never go to people who deserve them.

Mr West spoke in high terms of Mr Banks, and the way he wears himself out in striving to help the people.

Mr Ransom scoffed at the charge that the Salvation Army took numbers away from the Chapels: he himself was a reclaimed sinner, and fully believed that nearly all the members of the Army are in the same condition.

Mr West spoke of the Churches and Chapels being entirely filled with well-to-do people who thought much more of their clothes than their religion. He instanced the Wesleyan Chapel next-door (Mr J. Mee) where he felt convinced that anyone who went in poorly dressed would have to take a very back seat.

The relations between the sexes are becoming

Education.

Decay of Hackney.

much looser than they were; and much less stigma is attached to a slip on a woman's part than was formerly the case. Among men the chief topic of conversation besides sport is as to the various girls they know and their intention to seduce them if possible. Hackney Common and London Fields are fearful centres of immorality.

Education for some reason seems to have made the manners of children worse: they are much less respectful to their parents. Their language too has deteriorated; the greengrocer, who in his childhood lived in the Essex Road Slum, said that the children at that time never used such filthy language as he now hears daily from them in the streets.

Socially and morally Hackney is going down: the big houses in Well St are now nearly all given up to Boot factories.

July 30th

Parish 13/18 Miscell 13/5

CB (2)

Interview with Miss Edith Johnson the Chesterton Girls' Club, 100 High St. Homerton.

Miss Johnson is a lady between 30 and 40. In 1892 she was left the sole unmarried member of her family living in the old family house at 100 High St. Homerton. She was desirous to do something for the girls of the district and so she turned the old house into a Club and went to live further west in Hackney.

Miss Johnson is a pronounced agnostic and is connected with the South Place Ethical Society, but she has been successful in securing the cooperation of people of all denominations in the neighbourhood. The club is almost opposite Mr Blatch's church and both he and Mrs Blatch are on her committee and lend her their parish hall for an annual meeting there being a compact that religion and no religion should be equally excluded

from the Club.

I reached the Club at 8 o'clock. The house is a fine old one with a large garden behind, and admirably suited for its purpose. As in most clubs in summer, the attendance was not large at that hour.

Nearly all the girls, Miss Johnson says, work in factories, but they are in appearance much above the ordinary factory girls. Their chief amusement is dancing, and this goes on every night.

Miss Johnson thinks the Club has been a great success and attributes the success largely to the elimination of the religious element. The clergy she thinks would do much more good but for the constant suspicion of their religion which enormously hampers the good social work which they are doing. People, even the poorest, resent greatly having religion thrust upon them, and especially the tactless ~~ar~~ way in which visitors force themselves into their homes. For this reason Miss Johnson never visits any of her

girls unless asked to.

CHESTERTON GIRLS' CLUB,

100, HIGH STREET, HOMERTON.

FOUNDED OCTOBER 1892.

HOURS.—The Club and Garden are open every evening 7—10 o'clock; Saturday, 3—11 o'clock; Sunday, 3—10 o'clock.

MEMBERSHIP.—Open to all working-girls over 15 years of age. Weekly subscription 1d.

MANAGEMENT.—The Club is managed by the Committee and a resident Matron.—*(See previous page.)*

OBJECTS.—Social and Recreative. To bring into closer friendship the working girls of the neighbourhood, by providing them with a homelike centre—and also to afford instruction on certain evenings in such subjects and pursuits as may seem desirable to the members themselves. In the past years classes have been held in Musical Drill, Dancing, Singing, Piano, First Aid to the Injured and Nursing, Cooking, Dressmaking, Management of Children, and Elocution.

HOLIDAYS.—"HURST COTTAGE," HOREHAM ROAD, SUSSEX, twelve miles from Eastbourne.—Health and holiday home for Club members, kindly placed at the disposal of the Committee by Mr. RICHARD STAPLEY. Managed by a Sub-Committee with a Resident Matron. Railway fare, 5s.; board, &c., 6s. a week.

FOR THE

YEAR 1895-6.

General Committee:

Mr. E. H. Atkinson, 54, Hermitage Road, Finsbury Park, N.
Rev. F. Blatch & Mrs. Blatch, The Vicarage, Homerton, N.E.
Mr. Beurle, 331, Victoria Park Road, South Hackney, N.E.
Miss Carpenter, 30, Thurleigh Road, Wandsworth Common, S.W.
Mr. J. R. R. Elliott, "Cremyll," Mount Pleasant Lane, Upper Clapton.
Mr. Greenhill, 116, Downs Park Road, Clapton, N.E.
Mrs. Harris, 19, De Crespigny Park, S.E.
Mr. H. Clifton Harris, 19, De Crespigny Park, S.E.
Dr. Theo. Hoskin, J.P., & Mrs. Hoskin, 1, Amhurst Park, N.
Mrs. & Miss Hunt, 14, Thistlewaite Road, Clapton, N.E.
Miss Edith M. Johnson, 162, Amhurst Road, Hackney, N.E.
Mrs. Maynard, "Helwan," Lower Clapton, N.E.
Miss Pearse, Pond House School, Clapton.
Miss Pitts, 41, Granville Square, W.C.
Mr. Hugh Parry, 55, Buxton Road, Chingford.
Miss Secretan, 27, Thornsett Road, Anerley, S.E.
Mr. Harold Seyler, 34, Newick Road, Lower Clapton, N.E.
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Stapley, 33, Bloomsbury Square, W.C.
Mr. Urwick, 4, High Street, Homerton, N.E.
Miss Lillie Bevan
Miss Emily Kendall
Miss Emily Marshall
Miss Clara Thompson
} Representative Members.
Mr. W. Crowder, *Hon. Treasurer*, 271, Evering Road, Upper Clapton, N.E.
Mr. W. Varian, *Hon. Sec.*, 9, Percy Circus, Pentonville, W.C.

Resident Matron: MISS MARY GOODINGE JOHNSTONE.
Resident Matron at Hurst Cottage: MRS. PARKINSON.

Hon. Auditors: Attree, Wilson & Attree, Chartered Accountants.
Bankers: London & County (Hackney Branch).

on June 12th and 13th, at Pond House School, Lower Clapton, kindly lent by Miss Pearse. The proceedings were opened by Lord Amherst of Hackney, on the first day, and Mr. Herbert Robertson, M.P., on the second—Mrs. Kendal generously lending her valuable assistance, as did many other ladies and gentlemen and young people, too numerous to specify. Notwithstanding the fact that three large Bazaars were going on in the neighbourhood at the time, a substantial sum (£63) was realized, and that with the £18 from the Jumble Sale lifted the finances for the time being into a satisfactory state, and enabled the Committee to accomplish one of the hopes of last year's Report, viz: a nicely-fitted Bath Room for the Members.

During the Winter the membership again reached its full number. Besides the Social Evenings and Saturday Entertainments, both musical and dramatic, Classes were held in Musical Drill by Miss Clara James; Singing by Mrs. Bunn, Piano by Miss Webb, Mrs. Beale and Miss Maynard; Dressmaking by Miss Appleton (under the L.C.C.); First Aid to the Injured and Nursing by Mr. W. Varian and Mrs. S. G. Fenton, and the "Management of Infants" by a L.C.C. Teacher; Elocution by Mr. James McLachlan; and Dancing by Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Taylor, the latter Class and also the Singing being carried on during the Summer, by Mrs. Bunn and Mr. Varian.

Outside the regular routine indicated in the last paragraph the following events occurred, viz:—On the 1st November, the Annual Meeting held at St. Barnabas Hall, kindly lent on this and other evenings, by the Rev. F. R. Blatch. Mr. Richard Stapley presided, and Mr. Herbert Robertson, M.P., Mrs. Hicks, Dr. Moncure Conway and others addressed the Meeting, while Mrs. Theodore Wright, Miss Greenhill, Miss Gertrude Werge and others took part in the Entertainment, the proceedings being terminated with a dance. In December a Benefit Concert at the Morley Hall, when several distinguished Artists kindly gave their services. A New Year Party at the Club and dances for the Members at the Old Manor Rooms, Hackney, and at St. Barnabas Hall. A Musical Drill display at the latter hall, and share of one at the People's Palace (when three C.G.C. Members received Medals) and on June 20th, a Garden Party at the Club. On the last-mentioned occasion drill squads from Cleveland Hall, Rotherhithe, Lambeth and Somers Town Clubs (numbering

about 80) were entertained at Tea. The garden looked very bright with flowers and flags, and the Juvenile Foresters' Band and the visiting Clubs envied the Chesterton Girls their opportunities for open-air recreation. On July 18th, some friends gave a Garden Party for the younger sisters of the Members, which was greatly enjoyed. Miss Pearse and Miss Bristed kindly gave Benefit Entertainments in connection with their Schools, resulting in very substantial additions to the Club funds.

The Health and Holiday Cottage at Horeham Road, Sussex, referred to in previous Reports as being generously lent for Club purposes, by Mr. Richard Stapley, has been more popular than ever with the Members, a constant succession being in possession from June to October, some invalid Members also getting benefit from it, having their expenses paid from the Benevolent Fund. Hearty thanks are again due to Mrs. Parkinson and her daughter for managing the Cottage so efficiently.

The interest of the Members in the internal working of the Club is still growing, the lending Library and Coffee-bar being almost altogether carried on by their own energy, the girls also assisting with the dance music, and the half-yearly election of representative Members for the Committee showing a healthy competition.

The repairs and cleaning required in the house this year, were rather extensive, and the Club was closed for that purpose for a fortnight in August.

The Committee further fully considered various proposals for adding a Gymnasium, and Mr. Herbert Mansford kindly prepared full plans for them, but it was found that the expense was far beyond their means at present.

As regards the Club premises, Miss Johnson has generously agreed to continue the Committee's existing tenancy, whereby she foregoes the rent altogether, the Club only paying taxes and doing necessary repairs.

Messrs. Attree, Wilson and Attree have audited the Accounts for the year, and copy of the Subscription List and Balance Sheet will be found annexed. As already stated, the Bazaar, Jumble Sale and Benefit Entertainments have placed the funds for the time being in a satisfactory state, but the Committee feel that Bazaars cannot be held every year, and therefore ask for further subscriptions to carry on the work.

~~Presents of papers and the "Strand Magazine" have been~~

Sept. 3rd.

Parish notes
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(2)

Interview with Mr W. Blunt, 13 Millfields Road.

Mr Blunt is and has been for some years a Relieving Officer in this district: until lately he took the whole of Clapton Park i.e. the district bounded by (roughly) Homerton High St. The Lea, The Millfields and Clapton Road. Owing however to the difficulties of the district, and especially to that portion formerly forming the parish of All Souls, it has been divided and Mr Blunt's district is now bounded on the South by Rushmore Road, on the west by Chatsworth Road which on the north he goes up to Irma Road, taking in the poor roads round Dalmeld Road Board School.

Mr Blunt is a man between 40 and 50: intelligent, kindly, and (now) religiously inclined though in the past according to his own account he has been a great sinner. His father was a politician at Richmond, and at about 20 he became a professional cricketer and played for Surrey for some

Character of population

years in the days of Southerton, Jupp etc. He speaks of the cricketers of that time as a timely drunken lot.

The bulk of Mr Blunt's information applies almost exclusively to the poorer streets in Clapton Park.

Clapton Park is an awful place: the people are quite hopeless: the worst streets are Overbury, Pedro, Maclaren, and Redwald Road. The district may be summarised in the two words "Beer and Babies;" these two things are almost the only causes of poverty here: many, if not most of the men earn good money, but both they and their wives spend most of it in beer, and however large the number of babies there is always money for beer. The people in Detmold Road district and round Lea Bridge are really just as poor, or poorer, but they are decent respectable people, while those in Clapton Park are "the dregs of London", shiftless creatures who have been driven from pillar to post, and have drifted ~~wa~~ eastward even from the poorest parts of the East

Drink.

End after wearing out the patience of many landlords; many of them have been driven out by clearances in Bethnal Green and Shoreditch. In spite of the lowness of the rents here the landlords are wonderfully negligent or lenient and rent is allowed to run on for months. There are a few cases of decent poverty among them, but very few, attracted by the cheap rents, but people who have any self respect manage to get away when they find what their neighbours are like. The people are really identical in character with those in Hackney Wick and there is incessant shifting between the two districts. There is only one fully licensed House in the district, The George, which Mr Blunt declares is a house of the worst and lowest type: there are however several officers and beer houses, all of which belong to the same proprietor as The George. They all swarm with women, and the drink among them is undoubtedly increasing, and especially among quite young women and girls.

The Guardians have more applications for relief in this district than in any other in Hackney, and

Marriage.

Influence of Religion.

Health.

the large proportion of them are from alle-bodied people. There are too an enormous number of desertions; while Mr Blunt constantly has to report cases to the Soc. Prevention Cruelty to Children.

A very large number of the couples are living together unmarried.

Mr Hawkins is an excellent man and very popular, and does a lot of good in the social way, but his religious influence is nil, as is that of all the other denominations: the attempts of the Wesleyans (to whom he belongs) to get hold of the people Mr Blunt describes as 'farcical'. Those who make any show of religion do so ~~[illegible]~~ simply for what they can get.

Mr Hawkins gives a good deal of relief, but uses discretion in his methods, and frequently refers cases to Mr Blunt.

Considering the habits of the people and how closely they are packed the health is wonderfully good: there is nothing more than the ordinary sickness

Police.

of the poor. But all the houses are jerry built and owing to the lowness of the ground many of them are terribly damp. The landlords will never do anything in the way of repairs unless forced by the authorities.

Mr Blunt is the son of a publican and has a brother-in-law in the police force: he therefore knows a good deal about the relations of police and publicans. He says it is the universal custom for the publican to square the police not with money but with drink tobacco etc. The inspectors, superintendents etc ~~have~~ must be treated to suppers and champagne: the smaller men get their beer spirits and cigars. It is the invariable custom for the man on night duty to go to a fixed spot just about closing time when the barman brings him out a couple of cigars and a flask of whisky or whatever else he prefers. There are a few religious men in the force who cannot be bribed, but they are as nothing in the whole number.

Crime.

Watmens' Clubs.

Thrift.

Mr Blunt's brother-in-law was a teetotaller when he entered the force, but the temptation has been too much for him, and he now drinks like the rest.

There are a good many housebreakers living in this district. But the crimes which generally land the people in gaol are petty thefts, and deceiving, and such as fighting and brawling.

The clubs in this district are worse than public houses: they are the haunt of all that is bad, drink, gambling, desecration of the Sunday. The Chatsworth Social Club, and the Perseverance Club in Church St. Homerton are especially disreputable.

With the exception of burial insurance there is no thrift. Widows who have spent a large sum on the funeral of their husband, and in dresses more expensive than those used by the middle class in like circumstances, frequently

Out-relief.

apply for relief within a week of the husband's death.

The Guardians give a great deal of out-relief, but each case is very carefully enquired into; but still there is a good deal of imposition which it is impossible to detect.

Personal.

The District.

Classes of boys at School.

Past present compared –

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Interview with Mr Gardiner, Head Master, Gainsborough Rd Board School Hackney Wick.

Mr Gardiner was Assistant-Master at the School from 1876 to 1881 or 2. Has been head since 1894. Seems capable; a little opinionated; rather pushful; knows what he is talking about.

Asked as to the district he described it as neither criminal "nor exactly poverty-stricken." Two classes in it: one lazy & neer-do-well; thriftless; working a little, & able to get work; but hanging about from choice. They are mostly labourers, & their life is made possible by abundance of casual labour available in neighbourhood. The conditions are on the same lines as they used to be in the docks, although not so bad. [Local demand for female labour probably also put explanation of numbers of above class].

Another class in the district are rough but industrious workmen, mainly factory hands.

Thinks that the boys in his school come about equally from the homes of the neer-do-well hanger-on & of the industrious but low class labourer.

Asked how he compared present with past conditions he said that there seemed to be "less brutality & more laziness". In the old days it was

The Stagnation of the District. Movement in & out.

a common thing for parents to come round to the school with a horsewhip for the teachers. But that sort of thing did not happen now, & he believed that, generally, there was less violence. But the change had left more apathy & loafing. Men get just enough to live on & are satisfied. Women seem to gossip more when they ought to be at their work.

As regards material position thought that in a low animal sort of way the standard of comfort had gone up. That some were probably earning more than any used to. That they ate more & wasted more. It was a case of 1 lb. of meat often instead of ½ lb. And this was good as far as it went, but it did not go very far. Almost better to have a little more brutality & vigour than so much loafing & stupor.

As a whole the district is one of stagnation, with a certain amount of internal movement leaving things as they were. Those who do well go away, & it is a frequent source of regret, mixed with satisfaction, to see the best boys leave the district. On the other hand there is an inward drift of the failures from other parts. If a family gets into low water 'there' (pointing across the Marsh to a better class district toward Aspton) they come to the Wick: "I can see them". The result is that locally there are no signs of improvement. Life & work in the Wick are

Drinking.

Prostitution.

Thrift.

Visiting.

disheartening. No one, person or schoolmaster, ought to have to stay long in such a district, & I hope myself that I shall not die here: "A man can only make little sprigs of effort; only an immortal can keep it up."

Not more than the ~~average~~ amount of drinking in the district.

As regards prostitution, "very little buying & selling", & does not think that many women go out of the Wick to ply the trade. But relationships rather promiscuous, & morality at a low level. Frequency of illegitimacy illustrated by difficulties that occur as regards the names of boys at the school. They sometimes find that they are charged.

Two or three banks in the district, connected with one or another of the religious agencies, & fairly well supported, but as a rule the district as thrifteless as it is idle.

A good deal of visiting done in the district by four agencies, the Eton Mission, the Salvation Army, the Wesleyans, & by McDyke, of his mission: "McDyke knows every one in the Wick."

Local Government.

Health.

Need of Dust Destructor.
Local owners of house-property.

No large estate.

Financial Corporations.

Local Government fairly effective now & prompt to come down on abuses.] On this question & on housing Mr Gardiner called up Mr Swift, his senior Assistant, who is a member of the Vestry. Mr Swift said that the health of the Wick had been very bad, but had much improved. Will send Medical Officer's Report. Mainly a question of drainage, as the Wick lies low, & of the sanitary condition of the houses, rather than of their actual construction. There is also a "shoot" for several East End vestries in the immediate neighbourhood, & this also a source of infection & illness, mainly skin diseases. The children will poke about in the shoot, looking for what they can find, & often get ill in consequence. A Dust Destructor wanted.

All the local property is managed on the strictest "business" principles, & there is a good deal of 10 or 12 per cent investing that goes on, even now, among Vestrymen with an eye on the market. There is no single large estate, most owners having 6 houses or so. The exceptions are Mr Peck, a Solicitor of Holborn, who owns about 200 houses. His name is kept ~~[illegible]~~ under, & the property is locally known as Mrs Bates'. This person lives in the district, & is believed once to have owned the property. She has been through the bankruptcy court more than once & collects the rents for Mr Peck, who pays her a Commission. Also there are a few financial corporations, unregistered, mostly financed by Jews, which own some of the houses of the district. The largest of these

Management

Eton Mission _ Compared with local chapels.

*. Believed to be connected with Congregational chapel in Chapton, which supports Missioner, leaving local people to keep up buildings _

owns Osborne Road & Mallard Street, which were not built by, but have been bought by, the Corporation. Property consists of about 250 houses. Asked who collected the rents, Mr Swift said Mr Something-ovski, asked as to management, he said that condition now fair, but only because of interference of Vestry. Asked as to condition prior to action of Vestry, he could only say it was "~~[illegible]~~ stinkingly bad."

Mr Gardiner knows Mr Donaldson of the Eton Mission, & questioned as to the religious influence of the district said that of course the Eton Mission was the largest & wealthiest, but he was not sure that it was the most advantageous. They were very active & did a lot of good. They helped the School itself a great deal with the dinners for the children in the winter. But he thought that the Mission was the resort of those on the look-out for the loaves & fishes. If you want to find the more solid sort of person in the Wick, who is prepared to do something for his religion, you must go to Dyke's Mission* or to the Wesley an Methodist Chapel. But Mr Donaldson is better than Mr Drinsdale was, for "he has a nose to smell out hypocrisy." Bishop Carter too who was there before Mr Drinsdale used to go without blankets on his own bed to put them on those who were spending their money at the public-house." He was an awfully good fellow,

An appreciation.

Influence of the School.

but an awful mischief-maker."

Mr Gardiner would rather have no Mission than one that pauperizes. They used to have a Sister Katherine there, with a face like Savonarola, who was just as strict as the Mission generally has been slack. To the man or woman asking for help she always had an answer directing them to work, if they could: "You are strong enough. Go & dig", or "You can work: go to the wash-tub." But she has gone from the district.

Asked generally whether he would say of the Mission: that it was doing a lot of good, & was very active; that Mr Donaldson was learning his lesson; but that it was doubtful whether more good or harm was being done", he agreed that, although he would not put it so to Mr Donaldson, that was his state of mind with regard to it.

Asked with regard to the effect of the School Mr Gardiner said that they did their best to make the children regular, punctual & tidy. If they succeeded in the first two of these they found that the boys did not turn out badly. He constantly pointed the moral of this by reference to particular instances, good & bad, to children, teachers, & parents. The task would be easier if they could get any support from the parents. But in the Wick the children are the masters of most of the homes: there is

Importance of the first half-hour.

No Evening Classes.

Boys leave very early.

no discipline. Some say that the School is the real mission, but without claiming that he did say that no influence was so important for the children as the School, & in the School, the first half-hour of so-called religious teaching. Whatever Mr Riley or any one else may say or wish, the real use of that half-hour will be determined by the teachers, & its main use to them is to give an opportunity to exert moral influence & to check misconduct. It is at that time only that you can effectively make individual boys realize that they are getting into bad habits.

There are no evening classes in the School, but at the neighbouring one which is better situated. Few of his boys attend, & it is an exceptional sort of pleasure when he hears of one doing so. The early age at which the boys leave is a great trial. But they can earn 4/- or 5/- so easily that there is a great temptation to the parents to take them away. In looking round the School he can always tell which boys will be loafing about when they are 17 or 18, & in the boys so loafing he can read the parentage.

Hordbin is his Divisional Member, but he has never seen him. But he does not think that this makes any difference to the School.

Impression on seeing the boys –

Worst & best –

Before leaving I saw nearly all the boys, & most marched past as they came in from the playground. Tidy & well-dressed children were the exception, & the quite poorly clad & badly shod, common. Afterwards Mr Gardiner took me to a class of special difficulty children, from about 8 to 12, a hopeless & pathetically backward group of about 30. Hardly any could read 2 words of 3 letters, & probably most would leave school quite illiterate. The Wick produces children of one a noise type, & these are sent to a special centre. But those that I saw were bad & sad enough. From then I went to the top standard (6 & 7) & found half having a science lesson, & the rest one in woodworking. The contrast was most marked & one felt that there was good stuff in the Wick still that could produce some 50 boys as bright & interested as most of these were. They were very young, of those at the science lesson only 3 being over 13.

Sept. 9th.

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Interview with Mrs Maynard, Helwan, Lower Clapton.

Mrs Maynard, who is a gray-haired lady verging on 60, is almoner of the S.R.D. for Clapton, which includes the whole of Upper and Lower Clapton, i.e. down to Homerton High St.

Unfortunately she does not know much of her district, but leaves the administration of her funds largely to ~~the~~ other visitors of the C.O.S, though she visits each case at least once.

Character of district

The worst parts of her district she says are the streets about Homerton Church, and the lower part of Clapton Park, but the streets off Southwold Road, (Inner St etc) she thinks are getting almost as bad.

Drink.

As to drink:- Mrs Maynard thinks there has been a great wave of drink dating from the time of the last General Election. She

Religion.

has noticed too great signs of prosperity in the trade, all the small and comparatively insignificant houses blossoming out into garish gin palaces.

Mrs Maynard is a member of the congregation at Mr Harris' Congregational Church, commonly known as "The Round Chapel." She complains bitterly of Mr Harris' entire absorption in the spiritual work, and especially in preaching, which he seems to look on as almost his sole duty, though he is not a good preacher: he very seldom goes outside his own house: he has known bad health. In her opinion however all the non-conformist ministers in this district are much too exclusively engaged with their own congregations, nearly all of whom are wealthy: they know little or nothing of the poor. She reports too the foolish way in which they spend such funds as they devote to relief, totally without economy. Her brother is known at Mr Harris' church, and practically doles the funds out to any member of the congregation who wants them without

the smallest engagey. The name of the C.O.S. is like a red rag to most Non-Cons in this district partly perhaps because so ~~many~~ many Clergy are on the Committee.

Mrs Maggard referred to the Chesterton Girls Club as doing a "really Christian work" and to Miss Johnson as an admirable woman, whose moral influence over the girls was very good. Yet so great was the prejudice against the Club on the ground that it was not definitely religious that it was almost impossible to raise funds for it in the neighbourhood.

Sept. 10th.

Miscell 13/9

Interview with Miss Parnell, Pownscroft Road.

Miss Parnell who is a lady not over 30 is almoner of the S.R.D. for South Hackney. Like Mrs Maynard she is most unproductive, and leaves the administration of her funds mostly to the C.O.S. She is however one of the District Visitors attached to Hackney Parish Church. She visits only in Orchard Place, out of Clarence St., and this little bit she knows really well. It is coloured purple on our map. Here there are 22 houses each with four rooms; few are occupied by more than one family, but many take in a lodger. Miss Parnell tells me that at one time she was able to get into almost every one of these houses, but that as the old tenants go she has much more difficulty in doing so, and that of the 22 houses there are now 10 where she is never allowed to go beyond the doorstep, and in some cases she finds it

useless even to attempt to get in. The men in any case the women sees and she is scarcely ever able to see a lodger, who is always said to be out. The houses she goes into are all tidy and well kept: nearly all have their typical working class parlour, and each house has a long garden, which is always well looked after. The tenants who come now are a less respectable lot than those whom place they take and to this Miss Parnell attributes the greater difficulty in getting hold of them. The Visitors in this parish are not allowed to give relief on their own initiative, but Miss Parnell is often asked for relief, and is always glad ~~to~~ to be relieved of the direct responsibility of deciding, and to be able to say that she must report the case to the Relief Committee. Miss Parnell looks upon her chief duty as a visitor to be to induce the people to attend Church, but she describes the majority of them as utterly indifferent, and says that few of them ever attend any place of worship.

Of drink among these people Miss Parnell says

sees any direct sign, but she never sees them after the morning, and hears stories of a good deal of drinking all night.

Miss Parnell describes Mr Gardiner as an excellent organiser but his work has been much hampered by ill-health. The work of the parish generally she describes as very active but the ill-is carried on under increasing difficulties owing to the falling off of funds through the shifting of the richer inhabitants.

Sep 14th 97. Miscell 13/9 G.H.D.

Pastor Friscius of the German church.

Interview with Pastor F. Frisius. of the German Lutheran (Hamburg) Church in Rifson Road next the German Hospital. A tall, curly-grey headed man. Pleasant voice & manner. Rather inclined to deplore the wickedness of the world, of the Germans in particular & the hopelessness of his task - 5 years here.

The extent of his parish.

Formerly many rich or comfortable Germans in Dalston, & North Stackney & Victoria Park & Homerton. Now the rich have left and gone to Norwood, Denmark Hill, Sydenham. The poor have remained here. His parish is very scattered & consists practically of all N.E. London.

The easy classes have left the labouring remain.

Those that remain are chiefly tailors and especially makers of trousers employing 12 to 30 girls always on trousers. There are a number of them & they never seem to take up any but the trousering branch.

Tailors

Then there are cabinet makers, real artists; who learnt their work in Paris.

Cabinet makers.

These last came chiefly from France after 1870. They were employed in France & came over here

here during the war hoping to be able to return.
Once here they stayed & have never gone back. To German steadiness they have added the french artistic taste.
Then there are many hairdressers, bakers, butchers, both masters men and employées. Below them there is an unemployed fringe always in misery. The young ones in trouble are nearly always there by their own fault. With the older ones it is generally through some unlucky speculation.
Many drink that is their great vice. There are a great many clubs in the neighbourhood for Germans. There they play, drink & spend money. It wd have a fine imposing sum on the opening of clubs that it would be prohibitive. A wife had just been complaining to me of her husband who came home late & spent half his evenings at the club.
The Hospital was founded in 1845. now have 125 beds It is open for everyone who has an accident. At least ⅓ of the patients are English. 24000 at patients a year of whom ½ are English. There is a preference for Germans who are admitted ipso facto. English must bring a letter with them.

Hair dressers, bakers & butchers.

German clubs.

Foundation of the Hospital 1845.

The quarter of the German Jews.

Their progression - Whitechapel - Dalston. Hampstead

The green fields of 1845.

Church built 1874.

Services.

Sunday School.

Instruction in German - Saturdays.

No Helpers.

St Marks Rd. is peopled by German Jews and they are extending to Evering Rd. They come from Whitechapel. & as they get richer they will go to Hampstead. It is not the Jews who go to Norwood but a better class socially speaking.

When the hospital was founded there were fields all round. Hardly a house was on the North side. The railway was not built.

The Church was built in 1874 - (Mansion House station is built on the site of the old German church). This was moved out & had to be rebuilt somewhere else. This neighbourhood was chosen both because of its inhabs & its hospital

Except in July, Aug & Sep. he has 2 services on Sunday & one in these months. No German comes on a fine Sunday in summer they had rather go excursions. Many too are Social Democrats - Many won't come to Church at all.

Sunday school for children every Sunday except for 5 weeks in Summer.

Twice a week he gives a service in the hospital.

No curates. None to help. At least 6 times a year he

Size of congregation.

Hostility to Church.

Church attendance.

More in the morning than the evening.

Charities.

He visits all his congregation: amounting about to 600 persons out of the German colony of 2000.
He finds great hostility "not only against the Church but against God." amongst those who don't come to church. Some are "avowed enemies of God." It is not indifference but real hostility.
The morning service at 11 am is attended by 70 to 100 adults of whom half are male and half are female.
Evening service is attended by fewer persons. 30 to 70. The poorer come in the evening.
Sunday school has 75 children: 60 come regularly.
Every Saturday 50 children of Germans come to learn German. He won't take English. both father & mother must be German. His is not a bad congregation because many live so far off.
At X mas he spends about £60 in blankets, coal, bread & meat.
He has also has 25 pensioners receiving money from 'the society for the relief of distress' 1 of whom is French but the rest German. To each of these he adds 1/or 2/- per wk.
He also distributes a great many coal & bread tickets.

No buildings exc the Church.

No clubs in connection with Church

Two complaints.

Girls from Brandenburg & Pomerania

He never gives except to those he knows personally, unless they be stray Germans to whom he gives Lockhart tickets for bread & tea: but never money to those: money only to those he has visited. He never lets anyone go away quite empty handed if they are in distress.

He hopes to get a room built for a school soon: hopes to let him have a small room for Saturday evenings & there are two small rooms in the Church for Sunday school.

No clubs in connection with the church. He tried to found a singing club but they wanted to drink & dance & he it failed after 2 years.

He has two great complaints.
1. That Germans don't learn their trades thoroughly by a 3 years apprenticeship & want.
2. early marriages. at 22 years. He does all he can to discourage these.

From Brandenburg & Pomeranian come many girls, German who

Germans love pleasure.

Too much liberty in London.

tomorrow & the police say nothing"/

No cooperation with other churches.

who work for the tailors: they are freer than in Germany & they can make 11/. to 25/. per week. Some are very respectable & send home money save are not. The vigilance society has just sent him a calculation that there are 500 German prostitutes on the London streets. It is curious but a fact that the majority of these (working) girls come from two provinces. Some save but the majority don't. Germans spend a lot on pleasure. On Sundays they all go off to Epping Forest, leaving home & church desolate. to do so.
There is too much liberty here. All foreigners sh? be made to inscribe themselves at the Town Hall & report themselves, their birthplace, & their trade. Then one w? know who people are & whence they come as one does in Germany. As it is a man can be Schmidt today and Neumann
Has no occasion to cooperate with the English church.
Some Germans go to English churches whom he would like to come to him. [One in particular, a well-to-do corset maker. He has even spoken to him about it. He says he w? if he c? but says that one of the English clergymen is a very good client of his so he feels bound to attend his church.]!

German waiters.

The German émigré

There are very few German waiters in Dalston. They go more to central London. They are the men who shirk military service and the majority of them are Hanoverians.

For the most part the German comes over to London as an adventurer. Only a few know of places beforehand. They think London is a place where everyone can get rich. The good for nothing "what we call Bummler" thinks this in the same way as the man who already knows some trade: the second succeeds but the first is worse off than before.

Pastor Frisius will be very glad to give any further information in his power & is always to be seen at the Hospital on Tuesday afternoons between 3.30 & 4.30. He talks very little English. This interview was entirely in French.

Sept. 14th.

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Interview with Miss Parish, Clarence Place.

Miss Parish is an almoner of the S.P.D. and a district visitor in the parish of St. John. She is a prim and distinctly pretty old maid of about 60, who has lived in Hackney for 12 years and has devoted the whole of her time to charitable work. For some years she was Hon. Sec. of the C.O.S. and was responsible for the work of the Hackney branch.

The parts of Hackney which she knows best are the Morning Lane district and the district just west of Clarence Road, where she has visited for the Church.

Character of population.

Miss Parish began by saying that she could not understand why on our map Chalgrin Road was coloured Dark Blue while Morning Lane was only violet. Morning Lane and especially the central portion of it is quite as poor and disreputable as Chalgrin Road. This road

Drink.

however, besides being poor, is wretchedly unhealthy, owing to being built on a watercress bed.
In her opinion, however the worst street in this district is Woolpack Place. Clarence Place off Clarence Road used to be equally bad, but has now improved slightly: however now if drunken and improvident people disappear from Clarence Place Miss Parish usually finds them in Woolpack Place, or sometimes in St James' Place, a slum off Clapton Road.

Of the slums around London Fields Miss Parish spoke of Warburton Place as far the worst while in Dalston she mentioned Holly St as poor and depraved, but all round Dalston Junction she thinks our map is too favourable. This district is steadily deteriorating.

Miss Parish is one of those who hold that almost the only cause of the sordid poverty which is found in such streets as these is drink, and is convinced that no one who has visited the homes so much as she has done, and made

a point of watching the Public Houses on Sunday can fail to agree with her. In the parish of St John there are 25 public houses and it is impossible for remedial agencies to fight against their influence: in her opinion a reduction of licenses and Sunday closing are absolutely necessary. She suggests too that someone should publish a map of public houses.

She sees no reason to think that drinking has increased among men: but thinks that women begin to drink younger than they used to and that there has been a great increase among women and girls: at one time a woman of any respectability & used to look round on every side before entering a public house and then slink in: now they go in quite openly as a regular thing. Many of an Sunday night is full of men lads and girls (usually one lad with two or three girls) who go perhaps to two or three houses and of course stand drinks all round at each.

Miss Parish is constantly applied to for

Crowding.

surgical instruments for children, and finds that more often than not the injury is due to the neglect of a drunken mother: either she has dropped it when drunk, or 'lain upon it' in bed, or left it in charge of a small child of seven or so while she is at the public house.

Bands of Hope are of little or no use except when the parents are themselves teetotallers: "teacher says one thing and mother does another, and often sends the children for beer just after they come home from the Band of Hope". With such an example before them the children nearly always fall away as soon as they go to work.

After drink Miss Parish thinks the most fruitful cause of squalid poverty is high rent which leads to crowding: people take a house at a rent which they cannot afford and then have to take a lodger or lodgers: their rooms become so crowded not only with

Religion.

human beings, but also with furniture, that cleanliness becomes impossible, decency is unknown, and ~~all~~ loss of all self respect follows.

She is therefore rather hopeless of any rapid improvement unless something is done to ~~to~~ curb the drink traffic, and to give people more room in their homes

On the whole however Miss Parish admits that there has been a sensible improvement in the last 12 years.

A few of the poor go to Missions, scarcely any to churches. Country people, if they can be caught directly they come to London, can often be brought to Church, but the Londoner is almost hopeless.

The obstacles to religious observance are first and foremost the Sunday habits of the people; the late rising, the late dinner (seldom before 3 o'clock, and often later) and the soaking of liquor. ["If you want to form a true judgment of the character of the poor call ~~at~~ on them

at 4 o'clock on Sunday."7.

But another great obstacle is the chaff to which the religious and church goers are subjected. None but the strongest natures can face it. Miss Parish knew a most respectable old woman in Clarence Terrace who resorted to all sorts of subterfuges to conceal from her neighbour that she was going to church; she would start a great deal too early, or walk in the opposite direction.

Yet another obstacle is the lack of sufficient in the services which are read all above the heads of the poor; while the way in which churches are so to speak barricaded with a network of folding doors makes it harder for the poor to go to them.

Of the religious bodies in Hackney the Church is now far the strongest and most active. The non-Cons know little or nothing about the poor. For the administration of which funds (Prisons &c Wakes etc) though the non-Cons express their readiness to help it is always found that they

Charitable Relief.

are of no use, and that the matter must practically be left in the hands of the clergy.

In the administration of relief the clergy are much more trouble than the non-cons, but in neither case is there any direct bribery for religious purposes, though there was a time when the Scripture Mission Women were under suspicion in this respect.

The great fault is the hopeless want of organisation and cooperation: the poor frequently have three or four different people calling on them at once, each giving something, or small, and Miss Parish once visited a case in which she found on enquiry that she was the 7th visitor. Charitable relief is bound to do harm unless the various visitors can meet together and agree not all to visit the same cases, but efforts at cooperation are nearly always coldly received by the non-cons.

Experience

Rhodes Estate

Rents

Mr Donaldson.

Mr Donaldson is an auctioneer & house agent, having offices in Walton & Aldwych Park. He has known the district for 20 years, & has built up a very good connection I should say. A sharp business man tolerably good hearted but with a full eye to the main chance. Thought he could not be of any use to us, evidently does not concern himself much with anything outside the range of his own business, but talked freely about property rents &c in the locality.

Amongst other appointments he is agent to the Rhodes Estate, comprising Rosebery Place Wakefield Rd. Woodland St. Forest Rd. Holly St. a piece of Queens Rd. Parkholme Rd. Salisbury Rd. &c. This estate has belonged to the Rhodes family a great many years & is owned by 6 brothers. The property is nearly all let to weekly tenants, but in a few cases the leases have not yet fallen in.

Rentals range from about 8/- to 14/-. The 8/- houses are let to old tenants; they would easily fetch 10/-, but rents are never raised on old tenants. Rents are well & regularly

Class of Tenants.

The Rhodes as landlords.

paid, very few cases of arrears.

The demand for the houses is great – a dozen applications for one vacant house. They are thus able to pick & choose their tenants & take care to select respectable people in decent work. The tenants are largely railway employees, policemen, & postmen.

Most of the tenants have occupied their houses for several years – some for 30 or 40 – & there is very little, of any poverty among them; but nearly all let lodgings ~~are rather~~, & probably the lodgers are rather poorer. In some cases they are the married children of the occupant, but often these have regretfully to go further afield to Leyton &c. They like to get back here when they can.

The Rhodes family are very good landlords & anxious not over-rent their tenants. They subscribe pretty largely to Mr Knapps Church & Schools & spend about £300 a year, on the boys club & gymnasium [not a good investment is evidently Mr D's opinion]. When the lease of the public house ran out shortly, they were offered £1000 down & 100£ a year for the renewal, but as the house did not bear a good character they unhesitatingly decided to close it. They spend a good deal on sanitary arrangements. [Any case of distress amongst old

The Club lads.

Deterioration of Locality

tenants is relieved by them. They keep a stock of hospital letters for those who cannot afford to pay for medical aid.

The tenants are a very independent class, so are the lads who come to the club usually the sons of the tenants. They are comfortably dressed & will not be patronised in any way. Mr. D has tried offering them cups of coffee sometimes, but finds they prefer to pay for them; & on offering them the Illustrated papers in the Club to look at has been met with the remark "Oh we have these at home."

The neighbourhood has deteriorated a good deal in the last 15 years tho the better class roads rents have gone down. The houses in the upper part of Queens Road used to be tenanted by their owners but these have gone further away & the houses now let to yearly tenants who take lodgers. Rents have not fallen in the smaller class of houses owing to the demand for them.

Another sign of deterioration is the erection of workshops on back gardens. Try to prevent this wherever they can.

The Jews are coming in but so far they are a good class. He has sold 4 houses in Parkhouse Rd to Jews of late.

Police & Roughs.

Religion

He has had ~~bad~~ experience of the poorer Jews & their house-farming propensities in Spitalfields & fervently hopes they will not come here. [Mr D feels I think that he has been bested by the Jews. Having let some houses at what he thought was as much rent as they would fetch, he found the Jews subletting them & making nearly double out of them.]

The Kingsland rough has not been so much in evidence lately, but he still exists. The police are not active enough in dispersing the rough gangs who hang about Dalston Lane, &c, they might do more if they chose. Mr D is sure they do not come from the streets under his charge but mostly from Ware St way or Hoxton, &c. Occasionally however one of their lads gets led away by these roughs & gets into trouble.

He is rather doubtful as to the influence on the locality of the new music hall which is being renewed out of the ruins of the Collosseum.

Education & Religion are improving influences at work, & the tendency of the people he thinks is towards steadiness & decency. There is a good deal more

Brothels

religious & philanthropic work done than formerly, & Mrs Knapp & his staff are active in visiting the people & looking after them.

There is some immorality in the locality, & they have had to close 2 houses which were being improperly used. They quickly do this if they have proof. He has heard several times of one bad house on the property now (No 2 Woodlands) kept by a Mrs Hines but they cannot interfere because she has a lease of the house. He cannot see however why the police or local authorities do not step in.

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Miss Parish (See also Page 119).

Miss Parish has sent me the following documents:

Sept. 17.

5 Alexander Sqre.
South Kensington
S.W.

Miss Parish sends a few remarks on her own observation of poverty. for Mr. Booth.
Gambling she has left alone.
Music Halls in Shoreditch &

Cottage

Sept. 28th

Miscell 13/12 AB

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Miss Parish (See also Page 119).

Miss Parish has sent me the following documents:

5 Alexander Sqre
Sept. 17. South Kensington
S.W.

Miss Parish sends a few remarks on her own observation of poverty. for Mr. Booth.

Gambling she has left alone. Music Halls in Shoreditch & Poplar take enormous sums every week from the poorest streets. Exact figures are to be obtained, when Company is formed or a Music Hall changes hands.

A very small Public House in Bethnal Green, now pulled down used to take every week, over £100 on Sat & Sunday alone – This was told Miss Parish, by the woman who lived there.

Miss Parish

will be very happy to help
in any way in soliciting
facts &c. &c.

She would earnestly beg
any who doubt the need
of closing Public Houses on
Sunday Evening — to spend
a few Sundays in the busy
Streets of poorer London, &
see for themselves all the evil.
To see especially how the
young are being thus drawn
astray ——

(II). Police—Licensed Houses—Drink, and Temperance Organization.

Licensed Houses far too numerous.

There is a whisp
as to Suppers &
given by Public
are difficult
A great deal
influence at
so much to co

(III). The influence of the Church and other religious bodies.

The very Earnest Church work
the house to house visiting of Educated C
a very great effect for good - in many wa
fails to win the poor t

(IV). The influence of Education.

This brings in some a love of Nea
In others a distaste for phy

(V). Thrift and Friendly Societies.

(VI). Housing and Social Condition generally.

Too much overcrowding

(II). Police—Licensed Houses—Drink, and Temperance Organization.

Licensed Houses far too numerous.

There is a whisper in some districts as to Sergeants & other Sly attentions given by Publicans to police, which are difficult to prove.

A great deal of Temperance influence at work. But there is so much to cope with.

(III). The influence of the Church and other religious bodies.

The very Earnest Church work now going on, & the House to House visiting of Educated ladies, must have a very great effect & good in many ways, even where it fails to bring the poor to a Religious life

(IV). The influence of Education.

This brings in some a love of better home, clothes &c In others a distaste for physical work.

(V). Thrift and Friendly Societies.

(VI). Housing and Social Condition generally.

Too much overcrowding & Sub letting.

(VII). The relief of distress.

There is abundance of fe
Much more care is given by Clergy
to its distribution

(VIII). Poor Law administration.

Hackney Spends £10,000 in
& has continually to enlarge

District Two facts clearly bricked

[NOTE.—Where possible, a comparison should be made betw

Causes of London Poverty —

1 Drunkenness - including { Loss of
Idle
Dis co
less

2 Sickness - $\frac{3}{4}$ of this comes from
of impure Stimulant-
ignorance of all Hea
& by living in a dirt

3 - Overcrowding & Early Marria

4 - Many incidental Evils following

The poverty of the home, furniture, clothin
No relation to the amount of Earnin
& children are found Where Wages are oft
£1. The greatest Misery & destitution a

(vii). The relief of distress.

There is abundance of funds for relief —
Much more care is given by Clergy in recent years
to its distribution

(viii). Poor Law administration.

Hackney Spends £10,000 in out-relief —
& has continually to enlarge the Infirmary

District Two facts closely linked

[NOTE.—Where possible, a comparison should be made between Past and Present.]

Causes of London Poverty —

1 Drunkenness - involving { loss of work - unpunctuality
Idleness, gambling &c.
Discomfort at home -
less food &c &c

2 Sickness - $\frac{3}{4}$ of this comes from the constant taking of impure stimulant - by the "poker" poor - ignorance of all Health laws — & by living in a dirty atmosphere.

3 - Overcrowding & Early Marriages.

4 - Many incidental Evils following the "Strikes".

The poverty of the home, furniture, clothing, food &c, bears no relation to the amount of earnings. Very tidy homes & children are found Where wages are often 18/- & seldom more than £1. The greatest misery & destitution ~~are to be found~~ are often

to be found where Man & Wife are earning

There is M

Most of the "out of Work" results fr

1- Drink, or ill health, the result of being bro
crowded uncentilated home
Inecitable food
or from obstinate Self Will, developed by
Knowing how to teach her child to o

2- Sickness - brought on by above & by
overcrowding.

3 Almsgiving & Out Relief } These given impudicio
incalculable harm
Self respect.

Remedies - Better Landlords - Caring fo
Better Mothers, able to develo
better h

Pawn Shops & Public Houses.

These are generaley placed near
careful observation when living qui
revealed the fact, that tho' the clothi
obtain money - yet in 8 Cases out of 9 - th
pass from the Pawn Shop to the Public
part of the Money she has just receive

to be found where Man & Wife are earning 30/- or 35/- weekly.
There is Money enough.

Most of the "out of Work" results from -

1- drink, or ill health, the result of being brought up in a crowded unventilated home, & living on unsuitable food

or from obstinate self will, developed by the Mother not knowing how to teach her child to obey.

2- Sickness - brought on by above & by ignorance & by overcrowding.

3 Almsgiving & Out relief } These given injudiciously work incalculable harm, & undermine the self respect.

Remedies - Better Landlords - caring for the Tenants.
Better Mothers, able to develop the brain of the
Better Homes at low rents.

Pawn Shops & Public Houses.

These are generally placed near each other, & a careful observation when living quite near them, revealed the fact, that tho' the clothing is pawned to obtain money - yet in 8 cases out of 9 - the Woman will pass from the Pawn Shop to the Public House, & spend part of the Money she has just received.

Painters, Bricklayers, & others Earning
usually take Either Spirit or beer - a
at dinner, at 3, & at Supper. 1/- da
way is quite usual - & Sat & Sunda
This is the Statement voluntarily ge
These men usually go excursions
& when work stops, they have little
the winter.
Liberal out relief, & large endow
draw the "expectant" idle poor i
& thus that District becomes poo
Free Shelters do the same - & increas
by drawing a number of idle to ge
Each other in their idleness, & po

Reading rooms, Baths, Bicycles, Men's Cl
Factory girls - Rowton Loding Houses -
Much good, & helping on the Temperan

Painters, Bricklayers, & others Earning about 45/- wk. usually take either Spirit or beer - at 9.30. at 11 - at dinner, at 3, & at Supper. 1/- daily Spent in this way is quite usual - & Sat & Sundays more.

This is the Statement voluntarily given by a Painter.

There were usually 80 excursions on Sun or Mon: & when work stops, they have little or no money for the winter.

Liberal out Relief, & large endowed charities draw the "expectant" idle poor into any district & thus that District becomes poorer.

Free Shelters do the same - & increase the poverty - by drawing a number of idle together, who strengthen each other in their idleness, & possibly crime.

Reading Rooms, Baths, Bicycles, Men's Clubs - Clubs for Factory Girls - Rowton Lodging Houses - are all doing much good, & helping on the Temperance work.

Remedies for poverty. No 1.

1. Fewer Public Houses & Sunday Evening Closi
To remove Temptation a la

2. More Comfortable Homes. Wives & Mothers n
Homes, who do not
who can cook, mana

These 2 will pave the way for the higher & la
Of Religious influence

The work of the Clergy & the enormous Net-Wor
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educated ladies, every week, must have great
even where no Religious results are apparent.
work is marred, & its possibilities destroyed -
1 over crowded Homes.
2 Many Public Houses.

To the owners of poor Houses in London an app

The Owner leaves the Management to his Solic
Sends over weekly, a young inexperienced Cler
often engages a Small Greengrocer, or Small Trades
the Spot, to Collect Rents, & let the Rooms. This M
keep his post; is anxious to get the Money — Cares l
Crowding - or character of tenants, or need of repa
This results finally in Repairs costing the Landlord
& the living in over crowded Rooms, out of repai
Most dreadful dirty, untidy unwholesome h

Remedies for poverty. No 1.

1. Fewer Public Houses & Sunday Evening Closing.
To remove Temptation a little out of the way.

2. More Comfortable Homes. Wives & Mothers who care for their homes, who do not go out to work - who can cook, manage, & keep clean.

These 2 will pave the way for the higher & truer remedy of Religious influence.

The work of the Clergy & the enormous Net Work of Visitors is doing much, very much - the coming in contact with refined educated ladies, every week, must have great influence, even where no Religious results are apparent. But all this work is marred, & its possibilities destroyed - by

1 over crowded homes.

2 Many Public Houses.

To the owners of poor houses in London an appeal needs making.

The Owner leaves the Management to his Solicitor, who either sends over weekly, a young inexperienced Clerk, or more often engages a Small Greengrocer, or Small Tradesman close on the spot, to Collect Rents, & let the rooms. This Man, anxious to keep his post, is anxious to get the Money — Cares little as to over-Crowding - or character of tenants, or need of repairs.

This results finally in repairs costing the Landlord nearly double, & the living in over crowded rooms, out of repair, develops the most dreadful dirty, untidy unwholesome habits. This very

often brings fever, or sickness — & finally tenants
to pay — (impossible to pay rent, after weeks of sic
Sanitary Inspectors orders complete repairs, rede
the Owner. while having it done at the cheapest pos
the houses not profitable, & probably says rents
or the local agent thinks it well to please the owner by put

remedies for poverty - No 2.

or by letting the house to more families.

Owners of poor houses, if unable to visit
at intervals, should employ as collectors, educ
people, who will take a moderate rent, in
its payment, & upon due cleanliness - who wil
good repair, & absolutely forbid all sub lett

A family occupying 3 rooms at 5/-, can affo
With room to move about in, there is far less temptati
"Pub", especially if there is an oven, where a tasty m
and the rent will be paid. A house of 3 floo
4/- 5/- & 5/- will yield 14/- the owner paying r
But if these floors are let at 5/6 - 7/- & 6/6 -
the result. The basement will have a large fa
little kitchen at back & front room have to be s
The Tenants of the other floors, on any pressure fr
loss of work - at once let the off room at 1/6 we
the back room at 2/6 - thus reducing their on

often brings fever, or sickness - & finaley tenants leave unable to pay - (impossible to pay rent, after weeks of sickness.) The Sanitary Inspectors orders complete repairs, redecorations &c. & the Owner, while having it done at the cheapest possible rate; finds the houses not profitable, & probably says rents must be raised or the local agent thinks it rule to please the owner by putting on another 1/-

Remedies for Poverty - No 7.

or by letting the House to more families.

Owners of poor Houses, if unable to visit them personally at intervals, should employ as collectors, Educated thoughtful people, who will take a Moderate rent; insist alike on its payment & upon cleanliness - who will keep all in good repair, & absolutely forbid all Sub-letting.

A family occupying 3 rooms at 5/-, can afford to keep it tidy. With room to move about in, there is far less temptation to frequent the "Pub", especially if there is an oven, where a tasty meal can be cooked and the rent will be paid. A house of 3 floors, let at ~~3/ 4/ 5/~~ 4/- 5/- & 5/- will yield 14/- the owner paying rates & taxes.

But if these floors are let at 5/6 - 7/- & 6/6 - = 19/- this is the result. The basement will have a large family, & both the little kitchen at back & front room have to be sleeping & living rooms. The Tenants of the other floors, on any pressure from illness or loss of work - at once let the Off room at 1/6 each & possibly the back room at 2/6 - thus reducing their own rent to 2/6 or 3/-

& adding greatly to the wear & tear, to the rist
& to damage of all appliances - The small b
house, Dust bin, water supply, &c, is adapte
& is being used by 6 or 7 separate families.
A house let out in this way - often absorbs a
enormous amount of repairs - loss from ba
If the law insisted on a separate water tap
the enormous evils of subletting would ha
check. When a tired mother has to fetch
flights of stairs, not too much is used - & if it
absorbs many impurities before it is drunk
of illness. Illness means "Cant pay the rent" -
has to bear the loss.
In the course of 2 or 3 years - the house let at 14/-
far higher ~~profit~~

Remedies for poverty - No. 3 -
Early Marriages - & overcrowding.
One result of Education is that the girl &
acquired a desire in the evenings, to write,
& the girl may wish to make a dress - but
home, table full of food & crockery, noise ra
high on the shelf to be out of baby's reac
occupations are quite impossible
Then both boy & girl save their earnings, &
Sunday suit - but in the crowded home,
keep them, they hang in dust on the door - or ge
bed - & spoilt by the little children.

& adding greatly to the wear & tear, to the risk of loss of rent — & to damage of all appliances — The small back yard, wash house, Dust bin, water supply, &c, is adapted for one family & is being used by 6 or 7 separate families. result, quarrels & sickness. A house let out in this way — often absorbs all the rent in the enormous amount of repairs — loss from bad tenants &c. &c, If the law insisted on a separate water tap for each tenant, the enormous evils of subletting would have a wholesome check. When a tired mother has to fetch water up 2 or 3 flights of stairs, not too much is used — & if it stands long, it absorbs many impurities before it is drunk, & so sews the seeds of illness. Illness means "Cant pay the rent" — & the Owner has to bear the loss.

In the course of 2 or 3 years — the house let at 14/- a week, will give far higher ~~profit~~ than the one producing 19/-

Remedies for poverty — No. 3 —

Early Marriages — & overcrowding.

One result of Education is that the girl & boy of 16 or 17, has acquired a desire in the evenings, to write, draw, carve, read & the girl may wish to make a dress — but in the crowded home, table full of food & crockery, noise rampant, lamp high on the shelf to be out of baby's reach — all these occupations are quite impossible

Then both boy & girl save their earnings, & buy a decent Sunday suit — but in the crowded home, there is no place to keep them, they hang in dust on the door — or get trumbled on the bed — & spoilt by the little children.

This leads to pawning, to spending the Eve
or Music Halls — and to both boy & girl
early — to marry & have a home of their
a girl marries at 17 — finds often her nea
down when she is only 25 — energy goes, hor
dirty & neglected, the little child is sent to th
beer, which seems to help her on — but brings
— & so more misery, more discomfort creep
finds no comfort — & spends his evenings &
children are weak & sickly, grow up read
disease, & this poor mother who married a
confirmed invalid, or prematurely old be

The present crowding & subletting,
of sanitary accommodation, the sleeping
the rooms with no oven or boiler, no cup
for coals, for clothes — these things that
to create poverty, sickness, drink &c, &c
if owners visited personally at interv
better class of agent — an educated lady
& insisted on low rents, plenty of rooms &

This leads to pawning, to spending the evening in the streets or Music Halls — and to both boy & girl deciding very early — to marry & have a home of their own.
A girl marries at 17 — finds often her health fast breaking down when she is only 25 — energy goes, home & children get dirty & neglected, the little child is sent to the "Pub" for $\frac{3}{4}$d. of beer, which seems to help her on — but brings on greater drowsiness — & so more misery, more discomfort creeps in — the man finds no comfort — & spends his evenings & wages at "Pub" children are weak & sickly, grow up ready to catch any disease, & this poor mother who married at 17 — is often a confirmed invalid, or prematurely old before she is 36.

The present crowding & subletting, the scanty supply of sanitary accommodation, the sleeping in basements — the rooms with no oven or boiler, no cupboards for food for coals, for clothes — these things that help so tremendously to create poverty, sickness, drink &c, &c, could not exist if owners visited personally at intervals, & employed a better class of agent — an educated lady of business capacity & insisted on low rents, plenty of rooms for each family &c. &c

Sep. 24. 97. Miscell 13/13 CD G.H.D.

Interview with Mr. Stoddart. 93 Gore Road. South Hackney. House agent - recommended by Father Dunn -

Mr. Stoddart is a small man, wears glasses, quiet pleasant voice, lives & works at home using the first floor back room as his study. His son (ext. 21) is also in the same line of business - He is between 50 & 60 yrs old, has been in the district all his life and remembers the time when the children of the ~~[illegible]~~ neighbourhood used to pick water cresses in what is now Chalgrove road, just on the north of morning Lane -

The largest estates in South Hackney are

1. Sir John Cass's which is roughly the land lying between the Cassland Road & the Wick Road.
2. The Valentine Poole estate just east of

(continued on page 177)

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3
CD

Sept. 16th.

Interview with Rev S. J. Merrick, C.O.S., Heath St., Hampstead.

Rev Merrick was Sec. of the Hackney C.O.S. before Miss Davis for two years

He is a very young man who came to Hackney after a short training in Walworth.

Miss Davis' information was based on his notes, and I found that I could get little more out of him than a repetition of her evidence

The Clergy.

Of the clergy he has the highest opinion of Blatch (but he is getting rather elderly), and the lowest opinion of Marcom, who is indolent and knows nothing of his people. Leonard, he thinks devotes himself chiefly to the rich, and neglects the poor.

As to the Parish Church, Gardiner was a good organiser, and succeeded in getting a large band of workers about him, but the material he

had to draw on was bad, and the work was done by "inefficient curates and still more inefficient old ladies." The parish is going down and the church is chiefly filled by "old and semi-decayed inhabitants of the parish. Thorneby however the present senior curate, is a good man.

Hawkins (All Souls') is a good man, who knows his people well, and exercises a good influence, but the parish is always sinking: "you can almost see it getting worse".

Fletcher (All Saints') is a Churchman and nothing else: does a great deal for those who come to Church, but does not work among the poor.

Donaldson is a strong man, and the Mission workers generally do as much as any workers could with such a population: but the effect of their work is much more noticeable among the women and girls than among the men. Lady Alba Hobart Hampden works well among the girls. At first Mr Urwick said he thought the men were scarcely influenced at all: however subsequently he said that in the

The Non-Conformists.

Christ

C.O.S. in Hackney.

Since writing of 1894-95 a good many decent men have been sent up by the Mission, who may of course have been made decent by the Mission influence. The Mission has too much money, and would probably do better if poorer.

Walker (Christ Church) is scarcely in his proper place as a parson, but his curates Steinthal and Cook are the best in Hackney.

The Non-Conformists work with the C.O.S., but as they do little visiting among the poor and know little about them. However they have lately gone in for a good deal of giving of free meals in the winter.

Christ is abnormally low in Hackney: certainly weaker than in Walworth and Hampstead, especially of course in South Hackney. There are 12 Doctors' bodies in Dalston to 3 in South Hackney with a much larger population.

The C.O.S. makes no advance in Hackney;

and it is very hopeless soil for it. The district is going down fast and the Tariff Reform doctrines of the C.O.S. are most unattractive to the lower middle class.

The Committee is too weak to stand the introduction of working men.

Sept. 20th.

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Interview with Mr J. Buckmaster, Hackney Union.

I had a short interview this morning with Mr Buckmaster who is relieving officer for a district including the south side of Clapton Park, sharing the South's with Mr Blunt and going south to High St.

He has been an R.O. for 15 years and was previously in Hackney Wick for 18 months and in Clapton (including the Island) for some years.

He considers the lower part of Clapton Park (Pedro St, Madeira St, Rednald Road etc) as the worst bit in Hackney: in proportion to the population there are more drunken, dissipated and improvident people there than in any other part of the district. It is considerably worse than Hackney Wick, where, though the people drink a great deal, they will usually work when they can get it. But Clapton Park is full of

public house loafers who live on their wives and families. "The George" in Glyn Road" is the vilest house in London": it is known locally as "The Cowshed", and is always full of women. The police shut their eyes, and wont see what is going on.

The condition of the district is largely due to weak administration of the Poor Law: it has usually been under new and inexperienced relieving officers, who have not followed up cases properly, and numbers of drunken people have been getting out-relief: in a year Mr Bucknaster has reduced the out-relief by £7 a week. When the people find their relief stopped they shift off to some parish where the administration is more lax. Hackney has suffered much from the strong administration in other districts, numbers of people coming here because it is lax. Out relief is all right with proper administration: but it necessitates smaller districts and more R.O's.

After Clapton Park about the worst street in Mr B's district is Templar Road, from which

There are a large number of applications, through Transy Court is work and ought to come down.

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Sep. 24. E. H. D.

Interview with Mr. G. Stoddart & Son, house agent; con-
-tinued from page 161

West of the Kenton Road between Carsland Road and Well street.

3/. The Ballance estate just north of the Wick Road (. Ballance, Hassett, Orick roads).

4/. Loddiges estate belonging to the old Hackney family of Loddige who still live there, which lies between Loddiges Road r. Well street.

5/. The St Thomas Hospital estate, which includes St Thomas' Square off Mare Street and the Lansco from Well street to Victoria Park Road.

6/. The Hungers estate: a small estate by Hungers almshouses north of St Johns. Ch. Lauriston Road.

7/. The Crown Estate. Victoria Park Road, Gore Road, Cawley Rd

For

For particulars of their management it wd be best to apply to their respective agents. Mr. Geo Sparkes lately the agent of the Cass Estates wd be the man to tell most about South Hackney. He lived in South Hackney for 40 years & has only just retired to live at Finchley - address. Nethersdale Church End. Finchley.

The St Thomas' estate is "notorious as a blackmailer". "Charities might at least be expected to have a conscience." The lease is produced for the first holder & he has a chance of reading it. Subsequent holders of their houses buy them (as people generally do) without reading the original agreements and then find that ~~only~~ the hospital solicitor must be employed & that at the end of the lease not only have the houses to be put into thorough repair but a fine of £40 paid as well.

Rents on this estate are all paid by letter direct to the Hospital office.

There are hardly any freehold houses until you come to the outskirts. So houses along the Sidney road at the E. end of Ballance St are freehold. The railway

of discovering where the freholds are is by getting one of the Ownership voters lists. They are not generally to be seen except at the Parish church door where they remain until an enterprising house agent happens to pull them down. There are always several of the younger men on the look out for these, they might copy them if they liked but they prefer to take them bodily away, noone complains."

No rents in Stacknex are higher than £100 + £10 or £12 ground rent. This would be for a large house in the Victoria Park Rd or the King Edwards Road which are the two best in the district. As a rule a nine-roomed house with a garden behind fetches £36 to £40 + £7 ground rent His own house costs him £40 + £7 ground rent It is a little more expensive because of it good position. a little further west where the gardens are larger the rents are £45.
For a double fronted house about £80 with £10 ground rent is the usual thing.

Most of the leasehold houses have 30 to 40 yea

years still to run. The oldest house that he has heard of has not more than 9 or 10 years. This would be in the oldest part of Hackney off the centre of Well street.

The best built houses are in Ring Edwards Road. They were laid out for good tenants & taken by good tenants & well built in consequence. They have not more than 11 or 12 rooms but the reception rooms are large 26 ft × 12. Some have a carriage drive round to the back of the house.

The worst built are the flash houses lately built at the NW corner of Hackney Common (Chapel Crescent). rent £40 + £7 ground rent. They look new now beside the older houses but in 40 years time if they are still standing it will be the older houses that will look new. But these new houses let off well. People will have a bath-room & they like the smartness of them.

Every neighbourhood has ups & downs. The first tenants are generally of a fair class. They go when the freshness wears off. A lower class succeeds them, they

they go, then comes the crucial moment, for and the district either goes up or down. If the houses are good & well-built a better steady class comes because they have seen that the houses have stood some wear & become seasoned. If however the houses are bad a still worse class succeeds & the neighbourhood goes down for good. The Gore road is an instance of good houses passing through the ordeal successfully; its period of trial was 10 yrs ago when one in every 4 houses was empty. Now rents are going up & every house is full. The Pedro St district is an instance of the second class. The houses are bad and the tenants are gradually becoming worse. Rents here are not falling in consequence. They are even shewing a tendency to rise but it is because so few of them are paid in full. The landlord asks for more & gets less. He charges highly in the hope that some of the better of his tenants will cover his loss on the worse.

Instances of rentals in Stackney & Clapton.

Gore Road. 9 rooms. £40-£45 & £7 ground rent. garden & front. Double fronted houses £80

£80 to £85 - + £10 ground Rent. The best in the
Gore Road are £40. at the very east End
£36 + £8 ground rent.
St Thomas' Road. 8 rooms. £34 to £36 + £8 to £10
ground rent, tenant paying rates & taxes.
Rug Edwards road. The 4 large mansions at the
corner of Mare St let at £90. no garden.
Weynell Road. Double fronted. flash. Speculative
modern - with bath rooms - £40 per annum
Queens Gate Villas. £45.
Christie, Harrowgate, Annis Roads - good houses
£26 to £28 per annum.
Of the poorer streets.
Chalgrove Rd north of morning lane. 8/6 per wk
Hedgers Grove E. corner of Cassland road.
7/- to 9/- per wk.
In Clapton.
Cricketfield Road. £36 + £7 ground rent
with 71 years still to run.
Blenheim Road. freehold. 8/6. per wk.
Glenarm, Clifton & Medway Roads. £30 to £36

Jews

Jews are the worst tenants. They let their children
spoil the houses so. He had one nice whom he did
not like to refuse as he gave him £2 rent
in advance. When he left he found all the
walls smeared, paint rubbed off. But disagree-
-able tenants as they are the Jews are grad-
-ually taking up the better houses round the
Victoria Park & in the King Edward Road.
It has been a gradual influx, nothing sudden about
it. Now there is a Synagogue & more than ever
are coming.

Personal

The Wick: the mixed character of the population.

Its old repute: the action of the police.

Interview with Mr J. F. Coffin (Relieving Officer).
16 Cadogan Terrace.

Miscell. 13/14

CP

Mr Coffin is just leaving his present house to take up another R. O. district under the Hackney Board. For 9 years he has been working in Clapton Park & Hackney Wick, & for the last 4 years exclusively in the Wick. The evidence will relate to the latter only. Clapton Park is different & has altered. The people to see about it would be the R. Os in charge – Mr Buckmaster & Mr Blunt. They might be seen together at the Offices –

The people of the Wick are a mixed lot, labouring class for the most part, with a good many "unskilled painters" among them. But though fairly uniform industrially, they are very different socially, & throughout the interview Mr Coffin repeatedly emphasized the respectability of a section, that, moreover, "would not like not to be thought respectable" or to have the Wick labelled as a

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The importance of the Women as wage-earners.

The population not a very shifting one.

Rents.
Raised recently.
Improvements.

No empty rooms.

Health.

with the bad streets of Whitechapel – Brooks-St. &c. and said that neither criminally nor morally was there anything in the Wick to compare with these.

He said that there was a good deal of money earned, & that of this, through the local factories, the women contributed a considerable proportion, often earning as much as the men, & often the maintenance of the family, especially in the winter months. But in winter the destitution is generally "terrible", as so many men are doing nothing, & an early severe season always means a large number of applicants for relief.

As a class the population is not migratory, the large majority being fixed there. The chief movement is the summer migration of a considerable number to the country for the hop & fruit-picking.

Rents are rather low, there being a few single rooms at 1/3, & a good many at 1/6, going up to 2/- 2/6 & a few to 3/-. Recently there has been a rise, generally of 6 [illegible] made at all. He thinks the landlords want to secure a better class of tenant. A good deal has been done lately to improve property, especially in [illegible] the district is full, & it is

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He said that there was a good deal of money earned, & that of this, though the local factories, the women contributed a considerable proportion, often earning as much as the men, & often the mainstay of the family, especially in the winter months. But in winter the destitution is generally "terrible", as so many men are doing nothing, & an early severe season always means a large number of applicants for relief.

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The health of the Wick is "not thoroughly bad". The open marshes, securing plenty of air, are the salvation of the district. But there is some fever epidemic from time to time, & at present there is a certain amount of scarlet fever. He seemed

Want of more home & personal cleanliness.

The worst streets.

inclined to attribute this very largely to the amount of personal & domestic uncleanliness. There is not enough soap & water going, & the dirty bedding is a special feature. The quite unnecessary dirt & filth that are sometimes found are "appalling". In hot weather you get plagues of flies; "I never saw anything like them anywhere else". Went into a house one day & saw the table black with them. & the woman helpless. She didn't know how to get rid of them. It had never occurred to her till I suggested it to wash the table. "That's it: they are either very ignorant or very lazy. Teach cleanliness & we shall get rid of a lot of poverty".

The worst streets are

Humphrey St. & there is certainly "a curious state of things down there". Locally it is called "Go-as-you-please-street".

Felstead St. — very poor.

Chapman Rd. also very poor. The largest houses of the Wick, but generally let out in single room tenement.

The best streets -

Drinking

Morality

Amusement:

Football, recent spread of

Education: Not enough places -

The best streets are:

Windsor Road

Montague Road.

Osborn Road

Gainsborough Pl: "about on a level into Osborn Road"

There is a good deal of drinking & the public house does an "enormous" trade. Monday is the women's great day.

Does not think that cohabitation is very common. Cons across cases as when suspected applicant for relief are asked to produce marriage license. But the truth is difficult to get at. When cases are discovered the Eton Mission often steps in successfully -

There is no place of amusement, save perhaps the pub. But in the winter the Eton Mission provides a certain amount of entertainment - concert &c, and an occasional dance. The football on the Marsh is a new thing. A good many come by train to play but a lot come out from the wick. On Saturdays the ground is "covered". Nothing like it a few years ago.

The Board School at the present time is unable to find places for all the children. They are going to build another. Gardiner, the head master, "excellent".

The police: Cooperation with.

No "bullying" by the police.

Religious influence.

The pre-eminence of the Eton Mission.

The district tending to improve.

As regards the police he is on the best terms with them; he "makes this a rule", & thinks them a "very respectable & superior" body of men. "We can help each other greatly".

He says there is certainly no bullying by the police. In a criminal district he can imagine that it might go on, but people who are for the most part simply poor, & where the chief duty of the police is to stop a drunken brawl, "would not stand it".

Of religious influence he puts the Eton Mission far & away first. Others are doing something, the Wesleyans (?) with their ~~[illegible]~~ mission & Saings Bank &c. are doing good work, & the Salvation Army is doing a little, but the Eton Mission has "got the lead". It is "deserving of all praise"; he doesn't know what the Wick would be without it in bad winters, & altogether could not say too much in its favour. He especially mentioned its provision of a nurse, & the Guardian's contribution of £5 towards expenses thus incurred.

Of the Wick as a whole, Mr Coffin thought that it was improving; & would improve. The direct road to Stratford

Importance of direct road to Stratford, as proposed.

His personal relation with the district.

View of his duty as an R.O.

the bridge that the Vestry is proposing to make will do a great deal for the Wick, & will indeed "alter its whole character". It will at once become an important thoroughfare for a large district of London, & its own accessibility to Stratford will act beneficially in all sorts of ways.

Mr Coffin began the interview in an attitude of mind that reminded me of Mr Baxter's remark about Mr Dyke, that he would never speak out strongly about anything. But before he finished I think that Coffin had given his best & worst opinion, & the upshot is a comparatively favourable verdict. His own personal attitude to the place is also interesting. When he was he found that he had a good many rough customers to deal with, but by firmness he got over difficulties of this kind & won respect. He has now a feeling of affection for the place & will leave it with regret. He has many friends among the poor; they are all very "kind" to him, & generally grateful for whatever he is able to do.

But as a R.O. he has always thought that his most important work was not to give relief in kind, but to bring the different members of families to a sense of their duty.

Opinion as regards Out-door Relief

The able-bodied difficulty

Personal

Out-door relief, unless absolutely necessary, is "a very stupid thing to do" & very "demoralizing". If you give it you may go on doing so. There is apt to be no end to it, & people learn how to secure it. "One coaches another" as to the kind of questions that are likely to be asked & as to the best answers to give.

Dealing with the aged & the sick is however a simple matter compared with the able-bodied, & the difficulty not solved yet. The Labour Yard a doubtful expedient. It prevents the search for employment, & while you have one open, you will always have people in it, even in summer. They have not had one for the last two years - as the winters have been very open.

On the whole he approved of the policy of his Board.

Mr Coffin is a very genial sort of R.O. good-hearted, & perhaps of rather moderate intelligence. The whole idea of the Inquiry seemed to puzzle him, but he cudgelled his brains as hard as he could with the above result. He certainly gave no glib & cut-&-dried opinion. He is a man of 35-40 years of age.

The district: recent rapid growth.

The School: two classes of children.

Causes of irregular attendance:

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Interview with Mr Addiscott
Head master, Daubeney Rd Board School.

Mr Addiscott has been at Daubeney Rd about 15 years. Great changes during this time. When built people said school could not be filled, it was so isolated. Now new streets surround the school itself, & 750 houses are said to have been built in its immediate neighbourhood. This rapid expansion a quite recent thing. Even now they are only making the roads by the school, & full effect cannot be forecast. The new houses seem decently built, & in any case for a time, are likely to be occupied by a better class. But very few children have begun to come in from them yet.

At present the school is attended by two classes of children, from 1/3 to 1/2 of whom are very poor. The parents of this class are largely employed in home industries (perhaps especially some of the subdivisions of the boot trade) & it is their children that make the difficulty of the school. Attendance is very bad, 80% is good, & with great effort they can only get an average of about 75%. This low figure is almost entirely caused by the irregularity of the poor third. Poverty is the root cause, although this itself is due to many things, & the children are being constantly kept

The Clapton Park District.

Drainage, Health.

away to "take work home", to help in the work at home; or to mind the home. Drink too comes in as a cause of absence. "Why were you away?" "I was going on around for mother." We always know what that means: it mother's beer.

As regards the changes in the district, Mr A. says that although it is a growing neighbourhood & although the new houses will probably secure a better class of people than they had had about them before, Clapton Park, especially the Mandeville Street area, is steadily attracting a poorer class. It is a sort of refuge; rent we low; the general standard of life is low; & people are drawn to it by their own poverty. It is low; was very damp & often flooded; & generally a very god-forsaken place. Illness was very rife, especially diphtheria & fevers on account of bad drainage. Mine are somewhat better now as the Local Authority has been obliged to keep it eye on the district & the L.C.C. has been intervening; & last summer their Medical Officer came down to make a special report. But even now the orders to tell him of infected ~~houses~~ houses come in at something over one a day from the local authority, & the district remains a miserable one, with drink & poverty rife.

The temptation to earn the first money offered.

Poverty & early age of leaving school.

Free dinners versus free boots.

Mr Addiscott said that the Vicar, who was always "swearing" to him about the district, was the man to see, & Mr Ais own views were also a kind of suppressed swear. He takes a rather despondent view of things & talks in a gloomy way, about the district, the people, even the school, & probably is tired of all three & ought to be moved. He is rather a capable man, &, especially as President for the year of the National Union of Teachers, probably feels that there is something wrong in his being still stationed on the borders of the Hackney Marshes, at the other end of no-where.

Asked what the boys did when they left school, he said that they took the first 2/6 that offered. This was sufficiently explained by the prevailing poverty. The home conditions were illustrated by the demand for dinners that they give in the winter. Numbers go up to 800, & even to 1000, in severe weather. They used to give boots, but it didn't answer. If offered to him now, he would refuse. Giving boots would empty the school, &

Trades rarely learnt, + characters rarely asked for.

the excuse for absence would always be the want of boots, which when given would often go straight to the pawn-shop. He has had bitter experience of this, & hence dinners instead of boots.

The low age at which the boys leave a standing difficulty. They practically all go at 13. Very few over. Use they want to leave them often by & get off on the plea of five years' attendance, or to get a labour certificate. But if they don't get these it makes no difference. They go all the same. But, after all, what can you expect, when 4,000,000 out of 5,300,000 school children in England leave at 11.

Asked if the boys leave a trade, Mr A. said that was quite the exception. The boy who stops on till he is nearly 14 is about 1 in 50, & only "once in a blue moon" is he applied to for a character. But still there are just a few doing really well, & it's one of the satisfactory things about the work when they meet these exceptions in the streets.

No beneficial home influence.

The influence of the School.

Improvement under the New Regulations:

There is of course no home influence to back up the School. In the home it is drink: "that's what it is", at any rate in the bad corner, representing the irregular third of the School. The tone of morality is rather low, there is a good deal of illegitimacy.

Asked as to whether the influence of the School was reacting on the home he thought it was to some extent although very little "in the corner".

Asked as to the real influence of the School on the boys, Mr A. said that it was decidedly improving under the new regulations. While under the old ones the teachers had no time for anything but to work for the mechanical results enforced. If they gave time to manners or cleanliness, or if time for swimming & wood-working &c. was found, their position as teachers was endangered. But this is altered, & although the actual results as measured by the old standard are bad now, the real results are much better. Mr A. feels strongly, & it would seem even hopefully on this point. But he feels also that before the schools can

No continuation classes & at present, no demand for them.

The master of the whole school.

do what they ought "compulsory attendance must become a reality".

There are no Continuation Classes at the School, & at present there is little or no demand for them. This may perhaps be created by the boys who may come in from the new & better-built houses.

Just before I left, afternoon School ended & all the boys mustered in the great hall; Mr A. gave out the hymn, & they all sang "Jesus, lover of my soul". The Lord's Prayer, in which all joined, followed, Mr A. pronounced the Benediction; & the Standards marched out to the piano. It was all very orderly & very mechanical, & the spectacle of all the lads with ~~[illegible]~~ ~~[illegible]~~ very tightly closed eyes & clasped hands, gabbling at a mad pace through the prayer, was rather a sad one. But Mr Anderson seemed pleased; said that the Inspector had especially

Number of badly shod children.

Personal

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mentioned the "pleasant meeting" at Dankeney Road School; the perfect order & the musical march-out were certainly satisfactory enough. I found that the mustering was an idea of Mr Ais, & the object seemed to be not discipline, but devotion, but to prevent the teachers from keeping the boys in!!

The sight of the boys more than proved the prevalent poverty of the school, & boots as usual were the main test. As the poorest squad marched by, Mr A. drew special attention to it, & said that not 2 in 10 were properly shod. But for the whole school, even allowing for the injuriously boys, a certain number of whom come & who of course made good boots, this proportion would I think be too low an estimate.

Mr Addiscott is a man of something over 50; capable; & for the year the titular head of all the organized teachers of the country. He is probably an excellent disciplinarian and master, but he has not a happy disposition.