Districts 10. 7. 8. 9. 10.

Miscellaneous.

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Religious influences

10

Jan. 6th.

Dictat.: 10

Miscell: 10.11.12

(2)

Interview with Mr T. Thornton, Mile End Committee of C.O.S.

Mr. Thornton is ~~the~~ and has been for some years the Hon. Sec. of the Mile End C.O.S. He with other secretaries of the C.O.S. I went through the parishes with Mr Thornton, and noted his opinion on the work of the clergy; he is not at all unpleasantly C.O. Sy and his opinion, despite this, may be implicitly relied on.

St Augustine, Harry Wilson: the church exercises a really good influence on a considerable number of people. The only objection to Mr W. is his begging propensities, and his sensational appeals.

St Philip, Vachen: a great deal going on: excellent organisation. Mr V. matter and of fact and common sensical: Mrs V. an excellent sensible woman.

St Thomas, Jonnie: rather sleepy, but conscientious, working up and improving.

Christ Church, Hobbins: Mr H. an excellent man, but no push: conscientious, quiet, sensible; always takes the right side.

St Dunstan, Dalton: very active and zealous but inclined to take an unduly pessimistic view of the rising generation.

St Peter, Dennis: clever in his way: but slow and sleepy: has no faith in the people or reforming zeal.

St Anthony, Sedge: don't know much of his flock or parish but think there is a good deal of humbug in the work.

St Benet, Richardson: thoroughly bad; vulgar ~~and~~ loud: the worst possible type of parson.

St Holy Trinity, Greaves: very bad: regular old woman: cannot keep a decent curate.

St Luke, Dr Wallace: very eccentric, but schools are good: no harm being done.

St Paul, Plummer: poor church worker: dead alive.

Taking the church as a whole the clergy are about half good and half bad: but even so the church, with the possible exception of the School, is the great refining and moralising influence in the district, and as the old men die or are superseded

this is increasingly the case. The men who are doing really good work are either young themselves or have got round them a band of young curates of the Oxford House type: if the clergy are to do any good they must get hold of the young, and this they can only do through clubs etc: the new men have recognised that it is vital that they should mix in with the men and lads as brothers: the old men are lukewarm about it and adopt a paternal attitude.

Of the Non-Cons as usual Mr T. knew much less than of the Church: for the most part they stand aloof from the committee, not so much he thinks from dislike to the principles, as from their antagonism to the clergy: it is almost impossible to get them and the clergy to sit round the same table: the only people mentioned were The Stepney Meeting House "very much alive" and The Wesleyan East End Mission (Mr Peter Thompson and Mr Bolton Smart): this distinctly represents anti-C.O.S. principles and they have started a society of their own "The East London Society for the Benefit of the Poor" which is run "on the principle of not being so hard". The person chiefly responsible is

Charitable Relief.

Miss Charlton who split off from the C.O.S. She may be seen at the Coffee Tavern of the Wesleyan Mission in Commercial St.

On the general influence of religious bodies Mr T. is struck by the fact that applicants to the C.O.S. scarcely ever mention any minister of religion in their statements: this might be due to a desire to conceal from the Society any other help they are receiving but Inquiries seldom elicit any sort of connection with a religious body.

Mr. T. thinks that Missionaries Scripture Readers etc usually know much more about the people than the clergy and ministers, and instanced especially the missionaries of Mr Archibald Brown, especially Mr Weddinson, who has now left the district, but lives at Woodford and might be seen.

The administration of relief generally, and especially among the clergy has improved greatly of late years: the principles of the C.O.S. are permeating. The Committee might not perhaps be called strong from the strictest C.O.S. point of view, but Mr T.

Poverty.

thinks it is really much stronger than some which would be so described: while absolutely loyal to the central principles of Charity Organisation there is a tendency "to temper severity with mercy" and of many cases that other committees might reject the verdict is "there is hope let us try". The committee too is liberal with its "interim relief". This attitude is partly due to the fact that the ~~chair~~ Chairman, Mr Tennant is an excellent and sympathetic man who has strained his natural inclinations to stand by the society.

Judged by the applications to the society there is less pauperism and distress than formerly, but there is a process of social decay going on; the middle class people such as Captains and Pilots all moving out, and very few houses left with one family. The Jews are coming in largely; and houses not occupied by Jews are often owned by them: it is a favourite form of investment.

On the whole the district is quiet, respectable, and comfortable. Little drunkenness is seen, and

Education.

Poor Lass.

the streets are quiet at night.

Incidentally Mr T. touched on the question of education with reference to Mr Dalton's opinion that the Board Schools are making the younger generation irreverent, ill-mannered, and conceited. He thinks there is some truth in this but believes it to be due to the fact that our whole system of education is lamentably backward, and that we are just making a spurt, which for the time being makes the children so far ahead of their parents that there is some lack of control. Mr T. who has travelled a great deal is strong on the terrible inferiority of our education to that of Germany.

For this we should see Miss Lilly, Holt-House, Bancroft Road, a Guardian, a member of the L.O.S., and a lifelong resident.

Mrs Stevens.

Visitor in Green Street district.

GH
Jan 14/98

The worst Streets

Parish
9/13

(2)

Mrs M. Stevens. 20 Auckland Road, Romney Rd E.

Mrs Stevens is a well preserved old woman of 78. and for a period of 40 years she has visited the Bethnal Green Streets on either side of Green Street between Globe Rd & Grove Rd, principally in connection with Grove Road Baptist Church (See Interview with Rev W. Thomas.) of which she is a member.

For the past two years she has practically given up visiting owing to the infirmity of age but her married daughter often visits cases for her now

A pleasant, sympathetic woman, slightly deaf. Has been a widow ~~about 14~~ several years. Lives with the married daughter in a small 6 roomed house. The latter probably does some ~~home~~ work as sewing machine was ~~going~~ being worked in back room ~~on~~ the two occasions I called. Comfortable working people

The worst streets are Collins Place, Preston St, Smart St & Usk St. – the west of Dark Blue South of Green Street. The dark blue streets on north – Harold, Hope etc are just as poor but not so degraded. Very rough lot on south and have been so for many years

Slight Influence of Religion

years – Relieving Officer – Mr Dorman (I think) used to be afraid to go down. Get a family in nearly every room. Alma Road & Cranbrook Street are better – a number of the old weavers there. Moss St is also a little better.

East of the Canal the streets are poor but a grade above Collins place. This applies to Lescada, Totty & Palm Streets. Kenilworth Road – respectable poor – 2 & 3 families in a house.

Of the people in the Collins Place district, Mr S. gave a very pessimistic account. So far as attendance at meetings is a measure, the influence of the churches is very small. She used to visit house to house & knew the people but, does not believe that half a dozen of those living in street south of Green Street attended any place of worship. Except some who went to the Mission in Green Street & a few further along attending St Simon Zelotes, none of the children went to Sunday school. Mothers did not attend the mothers' meeting; they are a grade too low for that. Those attending the Mothers' Meeting are mostly the old women – widows.

When visiting in Harold Street she once made

inquiries

The Relation of the Sexes

Drink

inquiries as to Bibles and only found one in the street "& that dusty". Asked at each house.

In the better streets the influence is greater. In Auckland Road, she knows at least 15 who attend a place of worship; four or five are members of Vere Road Chapel. The children all go to Sunday school.

Sexual relations bad. 3 out of 5 couples are living unmarried. Some would openly confess it, and she had noticed that the women did not like any allusions to be made to it at the mothers' or cottage meetings. When she asked "why don't you get married?" she often found that the man had a wife living or the woman a husband. "Young people form connexions very early" quite boys & girls. Has got one case now – a girl under 18 just had a baby.

Drinking habits also bad. The publichouses in Green Street were only little beerhouses & now they are great places. They are not supported by the passers by but by the inhabitants of the district. Tradesmen are as bad as the poor people.

Visitation
+ Relief

"Indiscriminate Relief"

Mrs S. used to visit house to house + believes this is the only way to reach the people. She appears to had tickets + to have used these as introduction to the people. "That, (e.g. the relief) was the ~~sho~~ silver key ~~that~~ for me to open the door. If I had tickets I could get in" + was able to get in afterwards without tickets. Had no relief fund: occasionally had a little from the Tract fund + friends gave a little; once Archibald Brown gave her £5. Used to give out of her own pocket but when her husband died this was restricted.

Subsequently she entered into a defence of her mode of relief. "People say you are indiscriminate. Well if you see a child ~~weeding~~ eating the paste, being used for the matchbboxes, can you refuse to give to such a case? If this is indiscriminate then the Lord Jesus Christ was the most indiscriminate man(?) for he fed the people without asking any questions." Never gave money. Some people you cannot trust to get a loaf of bread. Has always been well received + well treated

Charitable Agencies

Other visiting agencies

If the other charity given, most is from the Churches. St Simon Zelotes only gives to those who will go to church. St James the less did not give away much altho' Mr Moon was good hearted but the good gentleman (Ditchfield) who has come now will be very liberal. He can get help and "will do something".

Not many visiting in the district. Mr Cook, a L.C.M. used to visit in St Simon Zelotes parish but he could not do anything with the people & has gone now. He used to be "too much on a pedestal". Approach Road Congregational had a nurse (Miss Roberts) who was very useful & would always look after cases. Now they have an older woman, who cannot rush about as Miss R. did.

The married women all work. Men hardly ever have a job and "may be seen lounging about the public house" while the women & children work like little slaves at match box making."

~~The~~ Unless otherwise stated, these notes refer to the dark blue patches off Green Street.

Mrs S. knew this best & while speaking this area was generally in her thoughts. Of the future of these people she is as pessimistic as of present. Many of them are the children & grandchildren of people resident in these streets & they have had no chance. If they move it is only from one street to another. They never go far.

If you want to see Green Street on a gala day, go when any one is to be buried, who has died suddenly. The people are all out & the publichouses are full. No sorrow in the faces - it is a regular holiday.

The Time to see Green Street

Jan. 17th.

District 8

Miscell 7.8.9

(2)

Interview with Mr Radcliffe Sharpe, Notting C.O.S.

I add here Mr Sharpe's notes on the clergy in his district omitted when he did Lincholme.

St Paul, Bow Common: Plummer: a true educationalist: no organisation in parish: no force: bad health.

St Matthew, Bradlyn: Good organiser: apt to be hard on people who don't go to church: rather narrow: closely in touch with C.O.S. but puts the Church before everything.

St Dunstan: Dalton: the new type: like Gordon: a good sort.

St James, Ratcliff: Knowles: run by lady visitors: weak, very poor: indiscriminate relief.

St Paul, Shadwell: Bury: old school, does little social work

St Peter, London Docks: Wainwright: very high: hard worker: church friend: works with his

but not on our lines

St. John, Wapping: Dr Carter: old school: difficult to work with: looks on parson as pope of parish: gout: temper.

Wesleyan Lady had mission: Peter Thompson: strong antagonism to church: good deal of bilge etc.

Jan. 15th.

District 10

Miscell. 10.11.12

(2)

Interview with Mr J. Cunningham, Head Master of Cranbrook Road Board School.

Mr Cunningham has been a master in Bethnal Green since 1871 and Head Master of this school since it was built in 1881.

The district surrounding the school which in our map is dark blue and purple is now poorer and rougher than it was, most of the purple streets being now either light or dark blue. Mr C. mentioned Collins' Place just north of the cemetery as about the worst streets in the district.

The prevailing occupation is boot work, but there are a fair number of cabinet makers, a few weavers still left, and a large number of porters and casuals: the women very largely make match boxes.

Of the children in the school about 1/3rd are always miserably clad, almost in rags, and the question of boots is an incessant difficulty. Judging from the children Mr C. thinks that very few of them come from what would be called decent homes.

The chief cause of the chronic poverty of the neighbourhood Mr S. thinks to be drink.

As to the churches in the neighbourhood they have been utterly inactive, the clergy old and sleepy, and no non-conf. body has done anything to speak of. The district is too far East to feel the influence of Oxford House. Mr Dilthfield has however signalized his arrival by great activity and started clubs, thrift societies etc.

As far as charitable relief is concerned Mr S. thinks that the people get little; he is constantly applied to for boots and clothing and if there were any ladies at work among them he would be bound to hear. During the winter they have a grant of £2.10.0 a week for dinners at the school.

Mr S. (who was otherwise very unproductive) mentioned the terrible lack of Baths in Bethnal Gn. There is no public bath between Bow and Whitechapel but a small private bath in Mansford St.: but there is no bath within 20 minutes of the school, and Mr S. thinks that many of the children

practically never wash their bodies.

Without exact knowledge Mr S. is of opinion that very few of the children in the School go to any Sunday School.

Jan. 20th.

District 9 Miscell. 7.8.9

Interview with Mr Jackson, Nichol St. Board School.

(2)

Mr Jackson has been Head Master of the Nichol St. School for 11 years and therefore knew the district well before the demolition.

He thinks that none of the former inhabitants are in the new buildings where the rents and the requirements of the L.C.C. are prohibitive: he thinks however that very few have moved far from the school, which has lost few of the old children except by leaving for age. Mr J. thinks that a very large majority are within five minutes of the school. There happened to be 2 boys playing in the yard and Mr J. called them in and questioned them: they were all former dwellers in the place and now all live in the neighbouring streets: Bush St. Bacon St. Virginia Road, Prince's Place, Chambord St. etc. Those who are not quite so close Mr J. thinks have gone to Hoxton, but to whether they have ousted others or simply crowded in Mr J. does not know.

The inhabitants of the new buildings are

mostly of the artisan class, but there are a good many Jews among them. So far comparatively few children from the buildings have come to the School; out of our 250 boys only 53 are from the buildings. The School Board Visitor says that there are wonderfully few children in the buildings, but of those ~~who are~~ there many continue to go to their old school, while others are kept away by the reputation of this school for roughness.

The new boys are intellectually infinitely superior to the old lot who almost without exception were the children of parents of the lowest mental calibre, and were themselves mentally and physically deficient, a deficiency enormously increased by their environment.

The attendance at the school has always been very bad - from 65 to 70 p.c. Mr J. has strong views on the question of truancy and the present attitude of the School Board and the law in view of the fact that compulsory attendance is a dead letter. His view is that in poor and degraded parishes such as this was the School is the great mission and civilising influence and that the

law should be stretched to breaking point to enforce attendance: whereas at present the tendency is the other way; things are allowed to slide in such a district and parents are simply allowed to defy the law. Mr J. admits the difficulties in the way of enforcement and instead of inflicting fines which the people cannot pay would have the father sent to prison for Saturday afternoon and Sunday and let out for work on Monday. The policy of relieving the parents of the responsibility for their children should only be followed in extreme cases and with great caution: parents are always coming to him and asking if he can't get their children put away but he always refuses to help them. It is especially important in poor neighbourhoods to be strict in enforcing attendance while the children are still young: they begin to truant as young as 6 or 7 and it is absurd to say that at this age they are beyond parental control: if the law were vigorously enforced at that age there would be much less difficulty afterwards as when children get the habit they go to school of their own accord.

Like others Mr J. was indignant with "The Child

of the Jago" not only for the exaggeration but because it ignored all other remedial agencies except Mr Jay, and especially the school: when making his enquiries Mr Morrison never came near the school "which has done more to humanize the district than all the parsons". Mr. J. admits however that Jay has wielded a great influence and done excellent work but in addition the Ragged School (connected with Union Chapel) has done a great deal for the children. Of late years Lady Jeune has interested herself in the district and has given Mr J. large sums of money for books. Mr J. showed me his books and bills and appears to have had from Lady Jeune for this purpose from £15 to £20 a quarter: he has booked probably about 25 p.c. of the school pagans for the books at a rate 1/3 a pair.

Mr Jay has a large evening congregation at his church mostly Jesters.

The children at the school have always left as soon as they could and very few have gone into any trade. Most of the street sellers about Liverpool St. have been at the school and Mr J.

cannot go that way without being constantly shouted at by old pupils.

Mr J. is a strong and strict but sympathetic man but less cultured than most of the schoolmasters I have met. His manner with the boys was admirable. He evidently has taken a broad view of the & his duties and has been something more than a mere schoolmaster. Exercising I should think an admirable influence on the difficult subjects who have come under his charge.

Jan. 21st.

District 9 Miscell 7.8.9

Interview with Mr T. C. Howarth, Hammersford St Board School, Bethnal Green.

Mr Howarth is a man of about 50. He has been since 1881 Head Master of the Hammersford St School, which is the School for the Brady St district which since the demolition of Boundary St is probably as low as any there in London.

Mr H. evidently took the greatest interest in our enquiry, had sent round our form to all his masters, and brought one of them, Mr Dearmer, into see me, Mr D. having especially interested himself in the children and their parents, and frequently been into their homes.

The area to which their information applies is bounded on the north and west by the railway, on the east by the Bethnal Green boundary, and on the south by the Whitechapel Road.

Though the district has always borne a rough and evil reputation Mr H. thinks that it has got if not rougher certainly poorer and more crowded of late years. Both he and Mr Dearmer are emphatic in their opinion that the colouring of our

map is now wrong and that nearly all the streets which we make purple are now the darkest of ~~the~~ blue; the light blue streets Barnsley St. and the top of Lorenzo St. are distinctly above those coloured purple. The two poorest streets however in the district with perhaps a shade of black in them are Faith St. and Key St. on the East of Cambridge Road.

The occupation of the people in the district is shown very exhaustively in the return which Mr H. got his masters to prepare for me (see below).

On the question of poverty Mr H. has made no ~~recent~~ recent inquiry but in 1884 he made an inquiry throughout the school; his belief is that things are now as bad or worse. At that time among the boys there were 97 families living in one room with an average of 5 to a room; among girls 81; and 163 and 120 families in 2 rooms with average of 7 in family. Many of these of course overlap. It must be borne in mind that the rooms are abnormally small and that "a big man can almost touch any wall when standing in the middle." This district having lately

become notorious through the Dixie St. fire "London" on Jan. 13th published an article which Mr H. had before him and as our conversation to some extent turned on this I insert it on the following page)

In 1884 Mr H. discovered (on the statement of the children) on a particular date that of the boys (he could not give the exact number, but out of about 230) 30 had come that day without breakfast 50 without dinner that 64 often came without breakfast and 69 without dinner; that their food consisted mainly of dry bread, bread and dripping, bread and butter, bread and fish and tea.

Mr Delamore said that now 50 p.c. of the boys bring such food as they get (mostly bread) with them and eat it in the playground or school rooms.

In such a district clothes and boots are of course an incessant difficulty: as to boots "the difficulty is to pick out a good pair": many of the children "simply cant march" owing to the way in which they are shod. The sight of naked bodies through the ragged clothing is frequent.

we might manage to pay for it, but we can't get two rooms. I ca promise to move out as soon as we get another place."

The front room of No. 8, next door, actually infringed the Act, alt only occupied by two adults. You can form some conception, theref the size of the rooms. Two adults ought to have 800 cubic feet, b room barely gave them 650. Upstairs, in two small rooms, was a far seven. When the husband, who is now in the infirmary, comes ou tenement will also become overcrowded.

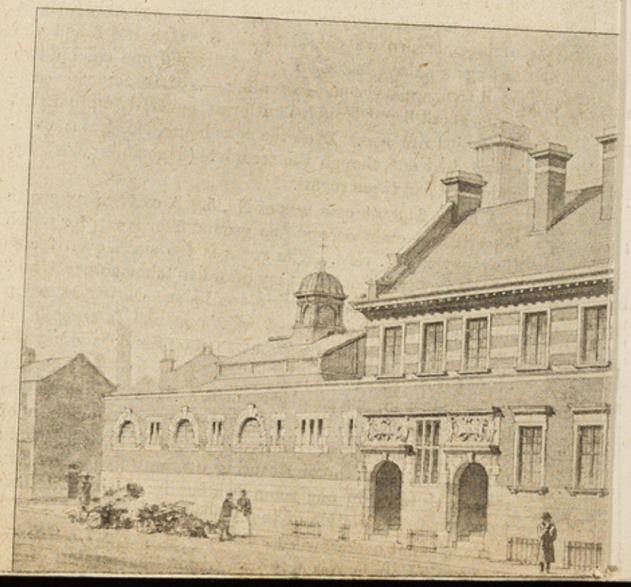
No. 9 was the home of the Jarvis family. Altogether there we people in the four rooms here before the fire. Workmen were busy cl away the debris. The four walls and the roof still remain. The wh the interior, which formerly consisted of two rooms upstairs and two is no larger from floor to roof and front wall to back wall, than an a suburban drawing-room.

No. 10 was all right—the third house in the street, observe, which w overcrowded.

Worse than all was the story at No. 11. Two adults and four ch sleep in the front room. "What can we do?" the woman asks, with a in her arms. "You surely won't turn us out? Sometimes my hu doesn't earn the rent, and I have to make it up by taking in washing. were nearly starving at Christmas, and the woman upstairs lent me a sh I have sold everything I had. I don't know where to look for rooms. a lot of trouble to get into this house. Wherever you go the people sa can't take children because they lead to overcrowding. Are we to lea children in the street?"

Are they? The woman next door had got over the difficulty by se her children to the workhouse school. She was a widow with two dau still at home, and as they only had one room they were told they mus more accommodation, whereupon the woman burst into tears, and sa only other place she could go to would be where her younger childre gone.

A firewood cutter and his wife were sufficient to cause overcrowdin



LONDON

No. 259.—Vol. VII. JANUARY 13, 1898.

An Inventory of Dixie Street.

House-to-House Inspection at the Scene of the Fatal Fire—More than Three-fourths of the Dwellings Illegally Overcrowded.

As we predicted at the time, the Bethnal-green fire tragedy, full of horror and warning though it was, has almost passed out of mind. It has been less than a nine days' wonder. But its significance cannot be overlooked by those to whom the housing of the people is a problem to be solved.

VIEW IN DIXIE STREET, BETHNAL GREEN.

It was a fatality which showed, despite the Health and Housing Acts, that the evils of overcrowding are still rife among us. Ten people in a single room is a gross infringement of an Act which demands 400 cubic feet of space for each adult, and the same quantity for every two children under 12 years of age. But, as the chief sanitary inspector of the district told me in the interview we published last week, the people do not crowd into one-roomed homes because they like them; they are forced into them because of their inability either to pay for more accommodation, or to obtain accommodation elsewhere.

How far this holds good I learnt for myself the other day. I accompanied Mr. A. S. Henley, one of the six sanitary inspectors of the parish, on a house-to-house inspection of Dixie-street itself. It may as well be stated at the outset that more than half the tenements were found to be overcrowded within the terms of the Act.

But first let me protest against the injustice done to the people of Dixie-street and neighborhood by certain newspapers. They have declared that the inhabitants of this neighborhood are of the drunken and criminal class. Nothing could be further from the truth. The people are all struggling, hard-working poor. As readers of newspapers themselves, these statements have fallen under their own eyes, and aroused much indignation. One of the women has written a righteous protest to *Lloyd's*. Her words are worth bearing in mind: "I am not scholar enough to express all I feel at the description of us poor workers given by certain papers in their account of the terrible fire in Dixie-street. The hard-working toilers are described, the men as 'besotted drunkards,' the women as 'frowsy.' I can only say that the writer of those words must have an evil mind to be so ready to condemn us because we are poor. We are not so black as we are painted, and as for being content to live in 'foul slums,' poor folks have to live where they can, the rich can live where they like."

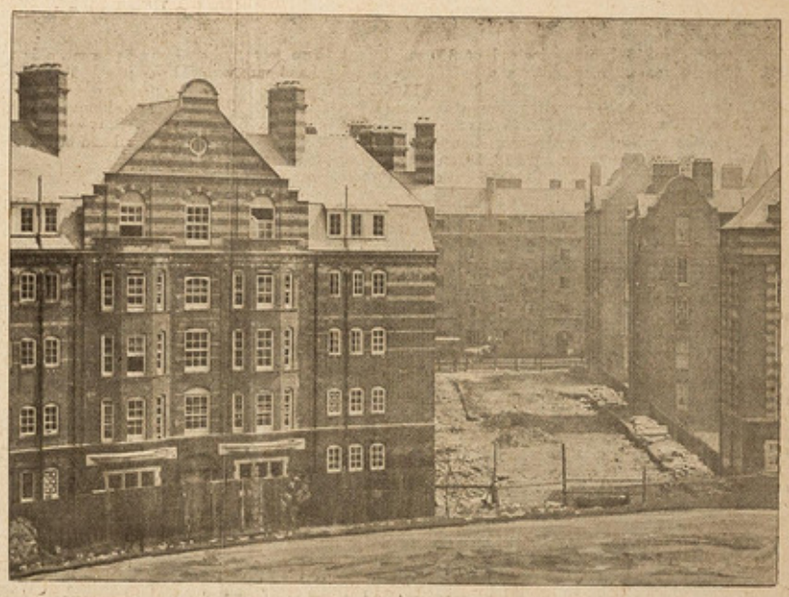
We began our inspection at the top of the street. No. 1 we passed as being in the occupation of a single family only. Dixie-street, it ought to be stated, contains some of the cheapest tenements throughout the whole of Bethnal-green.

No. 2 was overcrowded within the meaning of the Act. Here we found a family of seven occupying two rooms so small that the regulation amount of cubic feet was not secured to each occupier. This, however, was only a slight infringement, so we passed to No. 3. Here we found the Act again a dead letter. Four adults and one child in two small rooms was the state of affairs—not to forget a complaint about being troubled with rats, generally a proof that the drains are bad. Even the next house, No. 4, was overcrowded by one, though the occupiers (five adults and three children) had three rooms.

A more flagrant case was at No. 5. A costermonger with his wife and child occupy the ground-floor front, for which they pay 2s. 9d. rent. The room is too small even for so small a family. Couldn't they afford to take another room? "No; there's been no work a-goin' since Christmas in my line," said the man. "And what's more," interposed his wife, "we've had to go without food on Sundays to pay the rent as it is."

Behind them, in a smaller room, is a widow making matchboxes. She has no children, but allows two children of another family, who are overcrowded elsewhere, to sleep in her room at night, thereby causing overcrowding in her own room. Upstairs in one room is a family of six. Needless to say there is violation of the Act here also.

No. 6 is not overcrowded; so we pass to No. 7. Observe that out of six houses only two, within the meaning of the Act, are legally occupied. No. 7 makes up for the good record of No. 6. In the front room two adults and two children live. "You will have to take another room," the inspector says. "Well," replies the woman, "we've been trying to get another room for some time. We could do with another, and



A CORNER OF THE L.C.C. DWELLINGS IN BETHNAL GREEN.

A very large proportion of the women work as well as the men (or instead of the men) probably quite 75 p.c. mostly at match box making.

Mr H. (who is a most sympathetic man) does not altogether agree with London that "the people are all struggling, hard-working poor": drink is their great curse: the squalor of the district is summed up in "drink and overcrowding".

The health of the district is bad: typhoid fevers almost chronic.

As to the condition of the houses it is utterly bad, and the whole area should be demolished and replaced by model dwellings.

In spite of these evil conditions Mr H. notices an enormous improvement in the manners and morals of the children now compared with those he had when the school first opened: they are infinitely less savage, lawless and unruly: indeed they are now perfectly amenable to school discipline: this is due not to the influence of the home, but to the fact that they have been right through the school as infants,

whereas the earlier lot were brought in from the streets at a later age. In nothing is there a greater difference than the matter of language: in the early days the slightest rebuke from a master brought out a torrent of the filthiest language: now an oath is practically unheard during school hours, though Mr Deamon said that the language during play was still very filthy. In the earlier days the closets (and especially those of the girls) were one mass of obscene writing from top to bottom: they even got chairs or forms so as to reach the top: now it is the rarest thing for a word to appear, and if one boy or girl writes anything dirty another will rub it out.

The parents belong mainly to a generation which from age or truancy has escaped the discipline of school, but Mr H. thinks that the generation now in the schools will show a quite abnormal advance on their parents.

Unfortunately here as in other similar districts the attendance is very bad, under 70 p.c.

But while noticing a great moral improvement in the children Mr H. does not as yet notice any mental improvement: they still remain unusually dull and untractable: "in any ordinary district you will tell a class of boys something once and if it has been properly explained be sure that most of them have taken it in: here you may tell them again and again before they understand anything: in fact you are never sure whether they have taken a thing in." This dullness Mr H. attributes partly to heredity but still more to environment, and especially to deficient nourishment.

The children almost without exception leave as soon as they can: "we have not 5 p.c. over 13." As a rule they try to break away from their fathers' occupations of costering, fish curing etc, and go as sail or carmen: but many of them drift into the family line after all. Mr Denmore added that many go as soldiers: "I always tell them it is better than mooching round here."

As to the influence of the religious agencies - in the past at all events it has been of the slightest. The last Vicar of St. Bartholomew's did nothing; but the present man Mr Clements is active and energetic, with the result that the influence of the Church is being felt.

Mr H. and Mr D. were both of opinion that none of the people ever went to church or chapel, but the School caretaker (who is a Sunday School teacher and has known the district for 20 years) has told them that a fair number go for the loaves and fishes. A few days since he met a Mrs Jones at 8.30 a.m. "Why, Mrs Jones, you're out early." "Yes, sir, I'm going to church." "Going to church?" "Yes, sir, I've lost my mangle."

Though the Work Institute is within a few hundred yards of the school Mr H. only knew of one boy who had ever been there, and he thought that Oxford House exerted no influence in the district.

The Salvation Army work in the district but-

their influence is of the smallest.

Interesting figures as to the attendance of the boys at Sunday School etc will be found in the return below.

Mr H. had been under the impression that little ~~charity to~~ relief was given in the district but on this point again the caretaker had assured him that a great deal was given by the church, the City Missionary, Charrington etc and that most of it went to the wrong people.

As to the school charities boots, coats etc. are largely given, but only to boys who are regular in attendance. During the winter dinners are given; at present 96 a day.

At ~~one~~ one time Mr H. tried sabots but both children and parents strongly objected to them: they much preferred to come with bare feet.

As to marriage Mr H. thought it was rather

the exception: a very large number of the children have two names.

Speaking of his undermasters Mr H. said they were an excellent lot who took the greatest interest in the moral and material welfare of the children, and he believed this to be true of the bulk of Board School masters.

After our talk Mr H. took me up to see the boys at their dinner: there were 48 of them, poor, thin, anaemic little mites many of them very ragged, but three with collars. "You don't often see a healthy face in this school" said Mr H. Just as we got in the children stood up and sang grace led by an undermaster. The dinner consisted of soup and bread, there being about 2½ helpings of each for each child. The dinners are free.

Mr H. then took me on to the playground on the roof where a few of the boys were playing. He showed me the clean underfaced closets

with pride.

Mr Hamarth is an excellent specimen of a Board School master: intelligent, earnest, keen, with the most active interest in the ~~to~~ highest welfare of his pupils

Mr H. had sent our form round to his masters and though not of great value I insert some of the answers for a stray phrase here and there. Mr Delamore, whose paper comes first, though very rough and ~~lack~~ uncultured, is an excellent fellow and evidently with a most intimate acquaintance with his boys and their way of life.

Social Conditions

The women's work in
match box making
sack making
paper bags
Boot finishing

these in my opinion ~~are~~ is an unmixed evil. turning homes into workshops. bring ing ruin + starvation on the workers - by lowering proper wages. employing infant labour - making men careless as to getting work. + forcing unmarried women into crime in order to make up enough to live on.

Poverty. Very general all over this district ~~75~~ 50% perhaps over in a chronic state of hand to mouth.

Drink Rampant. and there exists a great excuse in the horrid conditions under which they live. It is taken in a large measure as a palliative against abject misery. There exists very little organized opposition to fight the drink

Housing &c. Bad as well could be. Families in one - and at the most two rooms - some cases more than one family in one room. How fearfully crowded can hardly be realized.

Marriages. I am convinced that legal marriage is very exceptional. The so called married, live together for life. Poverty haunts them - drink is a curse - and the woman gets frequently beaten.

Relation of Sexes. What can be, & must be, the ~~sat~~ relations of the sexes before marriage in a community. where fathers & mother are in the same rooms with sisters & brothers - often in the same beds.

Influence of Religeon The good moral teachings & highly religeous work done in school - is an influence with marked effect.

Influence of Education. I have emphatically to record. That a great & pronounced change has in my time taken place - in the whole demeanour of the native born child, and for the better. the old ruffian child is fast disappearing. where are the rebels & outlaws & young villains of a dozen years ago? The school has not existed for nothing.

Poor Laws

Amusements. Music halls all round us. Paragon, Foresters, Seabright & London & the Doors. Pavilion Theatre! I find truants - stealing in order to spend the evening & they get admitted. The shop windows should not contain pernicious pictures. Sunday is spent in bed - Monday in drinking & the rest of week in starving & working.

WD (over)

Life & Labour of People — Influence

1. What are the conditions as to:

(a) Poverty? very great

(b) Drink? Week end debauches

(c) Housing Sanitation Health? — : Low small. Very closely packed 2 or 3 families in a house, squalid dirt. 3 pitiful

2. Are marriages early, & if so is this an evil? Yes — yes (children

3. What are the relations of the sexes before marriage?
Marriage is the after consequence.

4. What influence does religion exercise?
No doubt a good influence, but parents language & habits make it hard.
right & wrong

5. What influence has education had.
Everything good. Moral lessons eradicate language, stealing, ~~Hog~~ living, & filthy language — It is generally the dullard (through non-attend at sch.) who gets into outside degrees

6. What charity is given, and how is it administered.
Dinners
Bread & coal
& Clothes

Remarks are invited on:

I. Local Government (including Poor Law Administration) & Police

II. Amusements & Habits of the People. } Sunday, Monday, pleasure.

III. Social condition generally.

I (a) Poverty - Very acute, though less so than for
(b) Drink - Terrible - little or no improvement - probably w
(c) Housing - Shocking over crowding - rents very high - u
be able to occupy a whole ho

5 Education - Decidedly uplifting - many of the parents
themselves had school training ∴ child
formerly, fewer ill-clad and bootless
concerning children's progress; whil
better behaved, more respectful
to discipline - lads of a given
intelligent than boys of Sin

II Amusements:- Fathers evening to be spent
large close of children;
visit club (few) public

I (a) Poverty - Very acute, though less so than formerly.
(b) Drink - Terrible - little or no improvement - probably worse among the women.
(c) Housing - Shocking over crowding - rents very high - exception for one family to be able to occupy a whole house.

5 Education - Decidedly uplifting - many of the parents of present children have themselves had school training ∴ children are sent tidier than formerly, fewer ill-clad and bootless; parents more anxious concerning children's progress; which children themselves are better behaved, more respectful and far more amenable to discipline - lads of a given age are more intelligent than boys of similar age say 10 yrs ago.

II Amusements:- Father's evening to be spent in stuffy room with a large dose of children; "walk round the houses"; visit club (few) public house (many) or music hall.

Conditions as to.

Poverty: House rents dear.
Poor wages of workmen
Occupations not lucrative
Large families

Drink:
Employment is not regular, time given to drinking.
Week-end debauches.
Discomfort of homes.
Lack of institutions for gathering men
Women join in debauches.

Housing. Sanitation & Health: Houses small. roofs low, rents dear.
Houses occupied by two or three families
Furniture scanty & poor
Sleeping - crammed.
Bad for sanitation purposes & morality
Houses or rather many people dirty, children dirty. Skin diseases & live stock bred.

Are Marriages early?
Yes, and I should think it was an evil because of inability of parents to support children and inability to find a home for them.

Relations before Marriage?
Generally marriage is the after consequence.

Influence of Religion?
Good, but language & habits of parents and people generally tend to destroy the good influence.
Know difference between "right" and wrong.

Influence of Education.
Thieving & "lieing" most to contend, Moral ~~[illegible]~~ lessons must have influence upon that

Ques

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3. How o

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5 What
should

Please fill in the return as soon as possible

	Std V & VI	Std IV a	Std IV b	Std III
1 How many boys go to Sunday School and what schools?	27 Salvation Army. Eastman St. St Bartholomews. St. Augustine. Good Shepherd. St Andrews. Markham Hall. Thomas Passage. George Yd. Tent St Mission.	36 (Girls 20) 1 St Bartholomews. 1 Trinity Congregational. 22 3 Good Shepherd. 1 London St. 1 Tent St. 1 Friends Hall. 1 Thomas Pass. 1 Assembly Hall. 3 Working Lads Inst. 1 Christ Church.	37 25 St Bartholomews. Tent St. Good Shepherd. King Edward's S.S. St Andrews. Underwood St. Working Lads Institute. Charlestons. London St. Brunswick Chapel. St Barnabas.	27 11 Good Shepherds (Welmot) 3. 1 Morley Hall 1. 2 Church Row 1. 5 Markham Hall Darling Row 2.
2 How many belong to Bands of Hope and where?	7 St Bartholomews. Markham Hall. Charlestons. St Augustine. Good Shepherds. St Andrews.	13 4 St Bartholomews. 1 Charlestons. 3 Good Shepherds. 3 Working Lads Inst. 1 Trinity Cong. 1 Christ Church.	6 Brunswick Chapel. Old Ford. St Bartholomews. St Andrews.	4 1 Mary St. 1 Good Shepherds (Welmot St). 1 Bartholomew's. 1 Markham Hall Darling Row.
3. How many to boys' clubs and where?	4 St Bartholomews. St Andrews. St Augustine.	4 3 Bartholomews. 1 Oxford Hall.	5 St Bartholomews.	5 1 Oxford Hall. 2 Walters Juvenile Lodge (football). 2 St Bartholomews (football) (boxing).
4 Do you know any societies that are employed assisting the poor and what are they?	No.	No.	No.	Working Lads Inst (Clothes). Markham Hall. "
5 What are the occupations of the parents chiefly?	4. Boot finishers. 4 Dock Labourers. 5. Cabinet makers. 3 Railway Labourers. 4 Fish Hawkers. 3 Carmen.	4 Boot makers. 3 Dock. 2 Cabinet. 3 Carmen. 2 Fish. 1 Book seller.	2 Boot finishers. 2 Docks. 2 Cabinet making. 5 Carmen. 3 Fish. 4 Bricklayers.	14 Labourers 2 Dock lab. Carmen, Brush makers, Polishers, Costers, Brick Layer's labourer.

Pleas

1 How

2 How

3 How

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that
and

5 What
pens

Please fill in & return as soon as possible

1. How many boys & girls Sunday School and what schools?
2. How many belong to Bands of Hope and where? 9
3. How many to boys clubs & where?
4. Do you know of any charities that assist the poor? and what are they
5. What are the occupations of the people that

Standard IIa	Std II b	Std Ia	Std Ib
56	37	(54 present)	44
35	24	35	23
Good Shepherd 2, Working Lads Ins 4, Charringtons 9, Salvation Army 2, Tent St 4, St Barts 9, Buckles Row 1, St Augustines 1, Wm Edward St 1, Gospel Hall 1, Markham Hall 1		Good Shepherd 8, Thomas Passage 1, Charringtons 9, Working Lads Ins 3, Tent St 6, Children Hall 2, London St 4, Salvation Army 2	Charringtons 5, Church Row 1, W.L. Institute 8, St Barts 1, Tent St 7, Mem: Hall 1
9	6	10	7
Gospel Hall 1, Coffee Shop in Whitechapel Rd 3, Charringtons Hall 2, Royal Oak Lodge 2, Oxford Hall 1		St Bartholomews 2, Burgess Court 4, Charringtons 2, Working Lads 1, Faith St 1	W.L. Inst 4, Foster St 1, Charringtons 2.
3	5		
St Bartholomews 3	Coal & bread (Name?).	St. Bartholomews 1	
no. Can hear of none!			
Bricklayers 2, Carpenters 2, Cabinet 3, No work 17, Baker 1, Gas Worker 1, Railways 4, Coster 1, Painters 2, Dockers 6, Porters 1, No father 4, Cab worker 1, Carmen 5, Boots 2, Cooper 1, Brass finisher 1	Herring curers (3), Bricklayers (3), Dock labourers (3), Tea warehouse (3), General occupations at home (6)	Match boxes 3, Fish curers 6, Bricklayers 3, Dock labourers 4, Carmen 2, Boot trade 7, Painters	Match Boxes 2, Box Makers 4, Carmen 5, Fish porters 4.

Poor Law.

Jan. 21st.

Distrib. to Museum 10.11.12

79

Interview with Miss Lilley, Holly House, Bancroft Road, Mile End.

Miss Lilley is a good looking middle aged lady with white hair exceedingly like the pictures of Miss Yonge. She was born and has lived in Mile End all her life. She is a guardian, a member of the C.O.S. and an almoner for the S.R.D. She also worked for many years for St Paul's, Bow Common.

Mr Rowton had advised me to see Miss Lilley with special reference to the Poor Law and on this our conversation chiefly turned. Miss L. has been a guardian for 4½ years. She had been a member of the C.O.S. for many years previously, but had always differed from the policy of the Society on the question of out-relief. Her experience on the board has however convinced her that out-relief as administered in Mile End is an unmitigated evil, though she still thinks that Whitechapel goes too far in the

Religious influences.

other direction. Miss L. said "it would make your heart ache to see the deterioration of women and especially of young widows, as they come up weekly for their relief.

As to the administration in the House this tends to be too lenient or at all events too undiscriminating: "it is quite right that the old people should be kindly treated, but it is scandalous that strapping young women who won't work should be allowed afternoon tea and the other luxuries which should only go to the old". Miss L. believes however that the treatment of the old is tending to sap the thrift of the poor: she has heard of several who have said they shall give up saving as they hear the House is so comfortable now.

Miss L. spoke of Relieving Officers generally as "harpers" always expecting and looking out for deceit, and looking upon all applicants as "frauds".

The Church is far more vigorous and active than it used to be. For the best work in the

district is that of St Dunstan (Dalton) but Hobbins is good." I think too I must say a good word for Mr Richardson: he is a crank, but he gets hold of his people." As for Mr Graves his is "a God-forsaken parish; no one can possibly get on with him". Plummer is now broken down with ill health but the organisation in his parish was always hopeless: "the workers did as they liked". Dr Wallace is mad but Mrs Wallace an excellent and capable woman. Miss L. once went to Dr Wallace's church: he spotted her and sailed down the chancel in the middle of the service to greet her: during the remainder of the service sometimes he kept and sometimes laughed, and altered and omitted parts of the liturgy as he pleased.

Since the departure of Archibald Brown, whose influence was very great Atkinson is probably the most prominent non-con: as to his religious work there was a time when he published no proper Balance Sheet.

The feeling between Church and Chapel is much more friendly than it used to be. Miss

Poverty and Social condition.

Relief.

Lilley is High Church and the non-cons look upon her as no better than a R. C. but socially they are quite friendly.

Miss L. described church and chapel workers as generally "a poor lot".

Miss L. thinks that Mile End has morally greatly improved during her lifetime. The root of the large amount of squalor and misery which exists she believes to be deficient and insufficient house accomodation, and looks upon the ~~housing question~~ supply of better and cheaper accomodation as the pressing question. The poor generally prefer small houses but she thinks that their replacement by models is almost a necessity. The important thing in models is to choose the caretaker with the utmost care.

The administration of which has greatly improved of recent years especially among the clergy, but the non-cons are still rather benighted

Thrift.

Personal.

Everybody in Provincial Clubs but comparatively few in sound friendly societies; a great preference for State clubs. A terrible ignorance among charitable workers as to the best forms of thrift and solvent societies; great want of a short and simple pamphlet on the subject which should be scattered broadcast both among workers and the poor.

Miss Lilly, a pleasant, sensible practical ~~lady~~ lady of the better and more sympathetic C.O.S. type.

Poverty.

Drink.

Jan. 22nd.

District 10 Miscell. 10 11.12 3

Interview with Mr T. C. Bray, Portman Place Board School.

Mr Bray is a man of about 40: tall, good looking: strong capable face. He has been Head Master of the Portman Place School for 12 years.

In the immediate neighbourhood of the school a broad line is drawn by the boundary of Mile End and Bethnal Green. The Mile End children are generally much better off than those from Bethnal Green. The whole district tends to become poorer, that is a poorer class is coming in and the better class moving further west and north: but Mr B. thinks there is less crowding than there was: with improved education and the general rise in the standard of comfort people are "giving more care to privacy".

Drink decreasing among men but increasing enormously among women: shameless about going into Public Houses etc.

Marriage.

Religious influences

Marriage not early and pre-marital relations good.

With a few exceptions the clergy and ministers in the neighbourhood are "a poor lot" and exercise either no or a bad ~~ex~~ influence. This is a very general opinion among the working classes, and ~~a~~ an opinion which Mr D. thinks is largely justified that parsons as a class, so far from being better, are worse than their neighbours, that they do the meanest things, pick the worst wages, are generally bad employers etc. But the thing which most prejudices the churches and chapels is their administration of relief: their constant insistence on church or class attendance as a qualification for relief disgusts all the self respecting members of the working class and the clergy are surrounded chiefly by the sycophants and the worthless. Mr D. saw something of the working of the Mansion House fund and came to the conclusion that unless people were known to the clergy through church or chapel their chance of relief was small.

The only parson of whom Mr D. spoke well was Ingram, of ~~whom~~ whom he has the highest

opinion: he has done much to break down the distrust of the working classes for the Church.

Mr D. always urges his boys to go to Sunday School and from 60 to 70 p.c. do so, but they nearly all fall away as soon as they go to work: this fact proves the extensive weakness of the churches.

I asked Mr D. as to the religious teaching in the Board Schools. He thinks it is far superior to that in the Voluntary schools: "the Bible is taught thoroughly and scientifically": he admitted however that the majority of the teachers were unorthodox in their opinions: these however are kept in the background, and the teaching generally is on the old conventional lines. Asked what a teacher would do if posed by an awkward question (S.S. Had Jesus a human father?) he said that he would probably evade it and say for instance "You had better wait till you are older, some people think one thing and some another".

The churches exercise a considerable influence through their social agencies. The clubs etc Mr D. thinks are

Education.

largely started in consequence of it not in opposition to evening continuation and recreative classes. The clergy saw this work falling into the hands of the secular authorities, and have sprung on to make a move. However the clubs are excellent things: "it is the chief duty of the churches to supplement the work that is being done in the schools".

Mr B. thinks the moral improvement among the people is increasing almost entirely owing to Education. He especially instanced the increased kindness to animals: he remembers well the day when no cat could appear in the streets of Portland sans without being hunted and mal-treated: now such conduct is rare. In his school a special feature is made of such teaching as kindness to animals etc.

Point of Education is to have its full effect you must "improve the teacher". Teaching in an elementary school at present has a demoralising effect, and Mr B. seldom fails to notice a deterioration in the character of teachers: this he

Amusements

Whims is accidental and not essential: it is mainly due to the treatment of the teacher by the authorities: he is only exceptionally treated like a gentleman: he is hampered at every turn by the most absurd restrictions. An P.'s bête noire is the Board School manager, usually some local magnate who comes poking around, and perhaps will spend a whole morning in the school, till the masters "are boiling with rage" and utterly unable to give their lessons. The local manager should be abolished. The Head Master should be given absolute control and if he is a gentleman selected: only so can you develop responsibility and get the best out of a man: and while developing the individuality of the master you will prevent the stereotyping of the child which is the result of the present system.

The present strain and stress on Head Teachers is very great and Mr P. notices that in London they are dying very young.

"Their amusements are very primitive: music

balls and monstrosities". There is great want of a decent theatre playing something better than melodrama.

Mr D. noticed a tendency now-a-days to want to get anything for nothing. He is very strict in his school in encouraging ~~the~~ self respect and independence. "If a boy has not got boots or a coat he had much better go without them than take them from the schoolmaster or a stranger: if you give them to him you have taken from him something you can never replace". The usual giving of oranges, apples and nuts by the teachers at Christmas is also discouraged. The general result of this policy is that the boys of the school pride themselves on their independence. I said to Mr D. "Suppose you found yourself at Kimmerford to-night what would you do? Would not you find yourself forced to give boots and clothing?" "Precedent might force me but it would do more harm than good".

In spite of these views Mr D. is sufficiently

Personal.

socialistic to advocate the taking away of the children of worthless parents: he draws a distinction between State aid and private charity.

Mr Bray a strong man, socially and intellectually much above the run of schoolmasters: but with a spice of intellectual arrogance.

Thrift and Friendly Societies.

Jan. 24th.

Distinct? Miscell 7.8.9

Interview with Miss Machen, Whitechapel C.O.S.

I had left our form D. with Miss Machen about a week ago. She had laid it before her committee and been instructed not to discuss the first four points, viz (1). Local Government (2) Police - Licensed Houses - Drink and Temperance organisations. (3). The influence of the Church etc. (4) The influence of religion. The general feeling of the Committee was that to give a candid opinion on ministers of religion individually would be indiscreet.

This committee of the C.O.S. makes a special point of thrift work

The Thrift Sub-Committee.

Our Thrift Sub-Committee, of which Miss Place and Mr. Feetham are Hon. Secretaries, is developing the work of assisting people to protect themselves against the risks of life. A Collecting Savings' Bank has been formed in the parish of St. Jude's, in which the Vicar, the Rev. Ronald Bayne, and Mrs. Adler, acting on behalf of the Jewish residents, are co-operating with us. A good deal of information has been gleaned as to banks and other means of thrift existing in the various parishes, and a certain number of persons have been induced to join the Metropolitan Provident Medical Association. Mr. Russell, the Secretary of the Foresters Court "Princess Royal," has made, and acted on, a valuable suggestion. He has formed a committee of members of the Court who make it their business to seek out the men and women whom

we refer to them, and persuade them to become Foresters. Success has recently been attained in 4 out of 6 instances, and we are endeavouring to make a similar arrangement with another Court; the plan seems capable of expansion, and we are willing to receive the names of any persons, whether or not otherwise known to us, who are likely candidates for a benefit club.

So far St. Giles is the only parish which has started a Collecting Bank. The C.O.S. has run it for them for a year and is now leaving it to run alone, but does not seem very hopeful: the difficulty in the way is the unbusinesslike ~~way~~ habit of the clergy and their workers: they won't keep the books properly: "you have to watch them like a cat watches a mouse to keep them up to the work".

Miss Machen's aim is to have people referred to the Society not merely for relief but also for thrift even if they do not want relief: that is, clergy or others who find men who do not belong to societies should refer ~~to~~ them ~~for~~ to the C.O.S. for advice and instruction as to how to set about it.

Three members of the ~~St~~ Thrift Sub. Committee are working men and secretaries of lodges.

The Society issues a leaflet of the best lodges:-

Charity Organisation Society.

WHITECHAPEL COMMITTEE—64, LEMAN STREET, E.

LIST OF SOME SICK BENEFIT SOCIETIES

Likely to be of use to RESIDENTS IN WHITECHAPEL.

By belonging to a good club there need in case of illness be no anxiety, no debt, no doctor's bills, no back rent, no stint of food, no pawning, no borrowing, no parish relief, no loss of independence.

CLUBS.

(*a*) **Hearts of Oak Benefit Society**—

Age 18 to 30. T. W. GALLOWAY, *Secretary*, 17, Charlotte Street, Fitzroy Square, W.

Ancient Order of Foresters' Friendly Society—

(i.) **Court "PRINCESS ROYAL," No. 3,395.** Meet at St. Mary's Schools, Johnson Street, Commercial Road, E. Mr. T. RUSSELL, *Secretary*, 3, Mile End Place, Mile End Road, E.

(ii.) **Court "GARIBALDI," No. 3,736.** Meet at Toynbee Hall, 28, Commercial Street, E. Mr. R. STONELEY, *Secretary*, 51, Middleton Road, Kingsland Road, N.E.; *Treasurer*, Mr. T. J. HULL, 53, Leman Street, E.

(iii.) **Court "SONS OF ISRAEL."** Meet at St. James' Tavern, St. James Place, Aldgate, E. Mr. I. BLOOMFIELD, *Secretary*, 68, Grove Road, Bow, E.

Independent Order of Oddfellows (Manchester Unity) **Friendly Society**—

"LOYAL STAR OF THE EAST" Lodge, No. 2,130. Meet at the Prince of Wales' Inn, 102, Grafton Street, Mile End Road, E. Mr. WALTER T. GRINYER, *Secretary*.

(*b*) **Church of England Temperance Benefit Society**—

Age 16 to 50. **"WHITECHAPEL" Lodge.** Mr. T. PLAFORD, *Sec.*, 9, Hunslett Street, Bethnal Green, E.

‡ **Independent Order of Rechabites Friendly Society** (Salford Unity)—Age 15 to 50.

(i.) **"JOHN HILTON" Tent, No. 340.** Meet at Edinburgh Castle, Rhodeswell Road. Mr. J. G. THOMPSON, *Sec.*, 77, Clemence Street, Burdett Road.

(ii.) **"SAILOR'S FRIEND" TENT No. 1,467.** Meet at 93, Old Gravel Lane, E. Mr. J. WOONTON, *Sec.*, 64, Anthony Street.

P.T.O.

‡ **United Order of the Total Abstinent Sons of the Phœnix Friendly Society—**

"**JOHN GROVES**" **Lodge.** Meet at Phœnix Hall, 85, Commercial Road, E. Mr. J. GROVES, *Secretary*, 13, James Place, East India Road, E. Age 16 to 39.

CLUBS FOR WOMEN.

Ancient Order of Foresters' Friendly Society—

"**PRINCESS MAY,**" **Court No. 8 109.** Meet at Co-operative Hall, Johnson Sreet, Commercial Road. Mr. T. RUSSELL, *Secretary*, 3, Mile End Place, Mile End Road, E.

Church of England Temperance Benefit Society—

"**WHITECHAPEL**" **Lodge** (see above.) Age 16 to 50.

CLUBS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE.

Hearts of Oak Benefit Society—

For youths, age 9 to 20 ; as above.

Ancient Order of Foresters' Friendly Society—

"**PRINCESS ROYAL,**" (Boy and Girl Foresters' Society), **Court 3,395.** Age 8 to 17 ; as above.

‡ **Church of England Temperance Benefit Society—**

"**WHITECHAPEL**" **Lodge,** (for Boys and Girls), age 10 to 16 ; as above.

‡ **United Order of the Total Abstinent Sons of the Phœnix Friendly Society—**

"**JOHN GROVES**" **Lodge,** as above. Age 8 to 18.

NOTES.

(*a*) The Hearts of Oak has no branches; contributions are paid direct to the head office.

(*b*) The Church of England Temperance Benefit Society is not confined to members of the Church of England, nor, except in the Juvenile Branch, total abstainers.

‡ These clubs are for total abstainers only.

For more detailed information apply to the secretaries of the several clubs or to the office, 64, Leman Street.

MARCH, 1895.

Housing, Poverty etc.

x They will give 10/ or 20/ for the key of a house and from 5/ to 1/ more rent in rent per room than Gentiles.

Of applicants to the Society only a small proportion belong to anything better than a Slate Club.

Such change as there is in Whitechapel in the last eight years is due to the increasing influx of Jews: when once they fix on a street they pertinaciously oust the Gentile house by house,x and it rex only end by their finally ousting the Gentile completely. But for their overcrowding propensities and certain dirty habits there is no objection to the Jews: it is even claimed for them, and Miss M. thinks with a good deal of truth, that "morally they act as scavengers and raise the whole tone of the district": certainly they are free from crime, drink and immorality, which in thrift and industry they far excel the Gentiles of the neighbourhood.

There is very little genuine poverty in Whitechapel, though plenty of squalor and even destitution caused by drink: the poorest parts are not really the low districts in the north but the streets near the Docks in the south. The colouring of the streets remains much what it was when

Charitable Relief.

Our map was made. Miss M. thinks the Flower and Dean St. district is still largely black: crime has gone but immorality has taken its place, a number of rooms in the Buildings being let as "Furnished rooms". It is exceedingly difficult to spot the landlords: they have hundreds of aliases. Miss M. knows of no area in which the actual condition of the houses would justify demolition: even in the Pearl St. district the houses in themselves are not insanitary. The worst places left are some of the courts to the north of Wentworth St. inhabited mainly by Dutch Jews "who are little better than animals".

On the whole the administration of relief has improved, among the clergy especially, but things are still very unsatisfactory: people pretend to work on C.O.S. principles but don't.

Of the clergy and ministers generally Miss M. takes a pessimistic view: the chief and almost the sole motive of their charity is to get the people to church: when they have any other motive

it is simply weak sentimentality: they have not the strength of character to resist doing that which they know to be wrong: they say "it's all very well for you who sit in an office to talk like that, but if you are in personal contact with the people ~~you~~ one can't act on your principles: I know what I do is wrong, but I can't go into the homes and see people starving without helping them." Finally Miss M. said "We have failed with them and I don't think we shall ever succeed. I don't think we shall ever get any nearer to them than we are; they look at things from a different point of view." The most hopeful thing is that the C.O.S. has the training of a good many young men from Oxford Houses who really are doing good C.O.S. work as curates but even they tend to fall from their principles in the stress of parish life: but they at least always understand the C.O.S. point of view.

In spite of their viewers to the Clergy Miss M. has most of them on her committee and has got most of them and some of the non-cons to

agree to a system of registration of the cases they help, but it has not worked very well: they ~~usually~~ often go on helping even when they know that someone else is doing so. The registration has disclosed less overlapping than was expected; but Miss M. thinks that the fact of its existence has made the clergy more cautious.

Miss M. described church and chapel workers as generally "very ignorant of charitable principles, but improving".

Miss M. has instituted a system of following up cases which have been refused by the C.O.S. Each such case is visited after an interval of three months to see how they have got on: they generally find they have been helped by the clergy but are no better off than they were. "It's a sad thing and utterly wrong but I fear we have three grades of cases here, Poor Law cases, Clergy cases, and C.O.S. cases". Miss M. admitted however that these cases often had claims on the Church which it was difficult to ignore.

The C.O.S. does nothing among the Jews, only

reports to the Jewish Board of Guardians. This Board gives indoor relief, and a good deal of it unfairly: it is largely owing to it that the poor Christian cannot in trade compete against the poor Jew: "it completely bolsters up the trade of "the Lane". As long as he repays his loans the small Jewish trader can always borrow from the Board, which therefore in effect acts as a Bank.

With the exception of the local clergy and workers the C.O.S. committee is West-End and aristocratic: Except on the Thrift sub-committee there are no working men, and Miss M. doubts if they would be altogether welcome on the main committee. As a rule there is no dearth of workers but many of them are not much use as they are only birds of passage: there is however a nucleus of Jews who have been constant for many years. New 'strangers' are soon sent about their business.

Owing to the policy of the Board of Guardians and by cooperation with them the chief work of the Committee lies in the giving of pensions, and last year on this account over £700 was spent.

Poor Law Administration.

The Guardians.

We are happy to think that our work is of some assistance to the Guardians in maintaining the strict and humane system of administration which they have pursued for many years. We refer especially to the pensions which we procure for suitable aged persons, now 59 in number, and to the help given in times of sickness and widowhood. See Typical Cases Nos. 1, 2, 3, 8, and 9.

We are convinced that the course pursued by the Guardians serves the best interests of the poor; where, moreover, the distinction between the province of the Poor Law and the province of voluntary charity is clearly marked, both agencies gain in efficiency. We gladly record our sense of the sympathetic courtesy shown towards us by the Board, and by Mr. Vallance, the Clerk to the Board, whose willingness to act in cases falling within their province makes our task both easier and more fruitful.

Miss M. is of course an ardent supporter of the Whitechapel policy: she claims that it has lessened poverty raised wages etc. "~~We stand now the shock~~ ~~"like an immovable rock~~". She has however great fears for the future. "We depend on one man and when he goes I fear the policy will be ~~rev~~ reversed in spite of the 25 years struggle." At present the guardians follow Vallance but they are very restive. Vallance is "always skating on thin ice." The policy would work more smoothly I gather

Personal.

but for the uncompromising attitude of the C.O.S. on the high standard required for pension cases. "We stand here like an immovable rock," said this M. "and refuse to compromise our principles one inch." "Individual guardians come to me and say if you won't give a pension to this case he shall have to give out-relief. I say "Very well do."" Each case has however been discussed with Vallance who urges the C.O.S. not to give way and hitherto has always prevented the guardians from making away.

Miss Maclean the stickler of C.O.S. etc but not as some such hard and unsympathetic. She is a genuine enthusiast with the most intense desire to improve the condition of the poor and a profound conviction that the C.O.S. path is the only right one to follow.

Jan. 25th.

District 8.

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Interview with Mr W. J. Sparks, Potter St. Board School.

On the same day as Mr Gray Mr Sparks came to see me at Adelphi Terrace. He is an undermaster at Potter St. School recommended by Mr Gantry. I got practically nothing out of him, and merely put in a note the few things worth recording:-

St. George's increasingly Jewish, mostly of the poorest class. The poorer Christians moving out to Canning Town and Plaistow.

The religious bodies in the neighbourhood of School very active, both Church & R. C's, and workers, but especially the Church: the curates are excellent men, always at work and often worn out with it.

St. George's less poor and squalid than Whitechapel proper. Housing, sanitation and health excellent.

Very active social and educational work carried on by the Evening Continuation Classes of which Mr Sparks is the Secretary

Jan. 27th.

District S

Miscell: 7.8.9

Interview with Mr J. Mellows, Highbury School, St George in the East.

Mr Mellows is a man of about 45: has been Headmaster of this school for 20 years.

He asked me to call at 1.30 and came in rather late: as he had a class at 2 our talk was very short.

The district is becoming increasingly Jewish: up to 10 years ago Cannon St Road formed the eastern boundary of the Jews: now they are getting into all the streets round the school: they are now largely represented among the Infants. Now they drive out are mostly the poorer class of gentiles: these however if they go further afield at first frequently reappear in St George's: their class get much attached to a district and though always shifting from street to street remain so far as they can help it.

With the exception of the demolition of the black patch close to the School the complexion of the district ~~has~~ remains much the same as on our map

Albert St. has been allowed to remain and is as bad as ever, as is Station Place, probably the worst street in the district.

The great cause of the surrounding poverty is "drink, improvidence and looseness". The drinking among the women is very great: even quite respectable mothers when they come to see Mr. in the morning nearly always smell of drink.

A large proportion of the men are dockers: they have been much better off since the dock strike as casuals do not crowd in on the chance of a job. It is the rule rather than the exception for the women to work at tailoring, washing, match box making etc.

Of the children at least 50 p.c. might be described as very badly clothed: upon Christmas especially the masters notice how ragged they are: but most of them get clothing of some sort at Christmas time. Out of the 400 boys in the school from 30 to 40 come bare footed, but Mr. M. urges mothers to send them so rather than in rotten boots in which they must sit with sodden feet. As in other schools of the same class Mr. M. gives away a large number

of books in the year: many of these come from the children in a high grade Board School at Hammersmith and Mr F. C. Mills always gives him money for books at Christmas.

As to the religious and charitable influences in the district Mr M. again describes the parish church and the Wesleyans (Peter Thompson and Co) as most active: how far their spiritual influence goes he is not prepared to say, but they really visit and know the people.

F. C. Mills (Co. Book Page) is also a great influence for good: he is perhaps too generous and indulgent with his boys, but Mr M. is convinced that the fact of a rich man living among them, and devoting his life to the work, has really touched and elevated many of his neighbours, though some merely take advantage of his kindness.

Mr M. thinks from 50 to 60 p.c. go to Sunday School: not to the Wesleyans. The children nearly all leave school as soon as they can and mostly drift into casual employment.

The attendance is wonderfully good on the whole: except

in the Hopping season when it falls to about 70 p.c., it is always over 90 p.c. The attendance depends more on the Head Master than anyone else. Out of 400 children who join the School in a year only about 250 remain at the end of a year.

While I was talking to Mr. M. in the central Hall two large classes of boys marched in to their respective rooms: most of them very poorly dressed, and one in all with naked feet.

Mr. M. told me that during the winter they give about 500 breakfasts a week, but no dinners.

Influence of Religious Bodies.

Feb. 8th.

Miscell. 7. 8. 9

Dictiol.g.

Interview with Mr W. H. Bailward, 1 Pembroke Mansions, Victoria St.

Mr Bailward is a man of 45: a Balliol man of the Milner Asquith etc generation, and with that indefinable something in look ~~and~~ manner, and mind which is so characteristic of the Balliol of that period.

For 12 years he has been working in Bethnal Green, having originally gone as a worker to Oxford House: from the first he has worked on the C.O.S. Committee of which he is now Hon. Sec. and for four years he has been on the Board of Guardians. Ingram mentioned him as a desirable person to see.

Speaking of the parishes generally Mr B. described as active:

St. Matthew (Ingram)
St. Andrew (Sec. late Lawley)
St. Bartholomew (Clemens)
Holy Trinity (Jay).

Of these the last is so completely changed that Jay's

occupation is almost gone.

The other parishes are sleepy and inactive, viz.

St. Romans (Fawcett).
St. John (Hollinger)
St. Paul (Field)
St. Barnabas (Barnes)
St. Simon (Green)
St. Peter (Woolley)
St. James the greater (Cooke)
St. Philips (Lovericdge)
St. James the less (Port. Ditchfield is waiting it up).

The inactive clergy with the exception of Lovericdge are for the most part harmless: their influence is simply nil. Lovericdge however is a great bigger who sends out sensational appeals.

Of the active parishes St. Matthews is one active: there is a great deal too much visiting and relieving: Infram is a temperate man for chief: in theory no man is stricter in his principles: he is a first rate man to get to speak at a C. O. S. meeting: but in practice almost everybody who knocks at the door of Oxford

House is relieved: Dupram always has some excuse: either he knows the man, or he is starving". Asked how far he thought Dupram's actions were influenced by an eye to the spiritual welfare of the church Mr D. said that he (Dupram) was intensely anxious that Oxford House and the Church should be popular and would not like to face the odium which would be the result of putting his principles into practice.

The best of the active parishes is St Thomas where Sick is carrying on the traditions of Lawley. Lawley when he first came was lax in his methods, but became convinced that he was doing harm and gave up as far as possible all relief, treats etc. The parish is still as actively worked as ever, but mainly on spiritual lines.

Mr D. thinks that on the whole the people are better, that is more independent, and materially better off in the inactive parishes. Certainly there is no reason to suppose that the people in St James the Great, where Mr Coke long ago gave them up as a bad job, are in moral character or

material welfare inferior to those in the overcrowded parish of St. Matthew: on the whole they are at a higher level.

As to the spiritual effect of the activity of the churches Mr B. is not prepared to say much: but fancies it is small.

Oxford House is of course the most prominent influence in Bethnal Green: but Mr B. is evidently sceptical as to the result of all its efforts: he admits that it is too early for a final judgment; but thinks that so far its influence has been at the smallest: those that it has touched have been almost entirely the best of the working class who were leading quite quiet respectable lives before Oxford House came, and some of them it has demoralized by unwise pampering and pauperizing. As with all such institutions there is a constant tendency to get rid of the poorest and roughest class at the clubs etc and to cater for the more respectable. "If you go there" said Mr B. "you will be shown men said to have been ~~saved~~ rescued from the slums, but I don't think there are many of them: the mass

Poverty.

Charitable Relief.

of poverty and degradation remains just the same".

Speaking of Bethnal Green as a whole the D. said that he noticed very little change in ten years with the exception of some of the Boundary St. demolition: the other slums remain much as they were, though undoubtedly many of the old Jacobites have crowded into them: the R. C's the home of Jacobites in the Brady St. Poor St. Collin's Place are as bad as many in the immediate neighbourhood of their old home and especially about Hare St. The D. hears great complaints from the Clergy and R. C.'s of increasing poverty in the East of Bethnal Green but cannot say how far they are justified.

The administration of charity has on the whole improved since the D. first knew the district. The East End is being covered with young curates who have been at Oxford Houses, and they have all served on C. O. S. Committees: though most of them relax the severity of their practice when in the Church they seem relapse into the hopeless state of the old school of clergy. The C. O. S. Committee is composed chiefly of representatives of Oxford House and

Poor Law

the various ladies settlements in the district. There has been no attempt to get working men on: Mr B. does not believe it would work: men of the advanced agitator type would never work on their lines, while men of the best working class type would probably be merely led by the better educated members and be mere cipherers. With the exception of a few of the churches Mr B. thinks there is not a large amount of Relief in Bethnal Green. Most of the clergy are very poor and cannot give much, and the non-cons are not very active in that line: there is little overlapping. Outside the churches the only charitable institution on a large scale is the Adelaide Dispensary, run by a local committee.

The Board of Guardians remains in constitution exactly of the same type as upon the lowering of the suffrage, almost all of the tradesmen type with a clergyman, a non-con minister and one or two working men; but on the whole they are free from the scandals which used to be common: there is a good deal of nepotism, but no more than there

Wright.

is in the highest circles: it is quite incurable: other forms of corruption have gone. The administration is weak, a great deal too much out relief, but there has been a considerable improvement. Mr R. showed me in proof the first Report issued by the Guardians: (the clerk will give us a copy if he mention his name): this gives interesting figures as to the fluctuations in relief. Mr R. is of the school who look upon "the administration of the poor law as a much more important influence in forming the character of a district than all the churches and chapels".

Mr R. referred only slightly to the question of overcrowding in their workhouse which has lately been ventilated in the papers: he said that they were quite about to build an infirmary, and that they had for this purpose to borrow up to the extreme limits of their powers.

Mr R. has got three parishes to start collecting Pastor: "but the good they do with one hand, they usually undo with the other".

Mr. Gte.

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Interview with Mr S. O. Redmond 6 Nov 1. Bethnal Green.

Mr Redmond is Hon. Sec. of the Knights of Trafalgar Spitalfields Benevolent Society

The Spitalfields Benevolent Society

ORIGINATED with the Society or Lodge called the "Knights of Trafalgar," which was a social gathering established in Spitalfields in the year 1809 to commemorate the battle of Trafalgar, as shown by an entry in the Minute Book of the said Lodge. In the same book, under date of the 14th day of February, 1826, will be found the following proposition, viz.—That a book be opened for subscriptions in aid of the distressed Weavers, founded on the following recommendation of the Committee appointed on the 7th inst. The Committee feeling desirous of furthering the benevolent intention of the majority of the "Knights of Trafalgar," and, viewing with feelings of the most painful regret the present unexampled distress which prevails in Spitalfields and the neighbouring Parishes, beg to recommend that a book be opened in the Lodge for the purpose of accepting the subscriptions of those "Knights" who may be desirous of contributing to the relief of their unfortunate fellow creatures, the suffering Weavers.

That resolution having been acted upon was the origin of the Spitalfields Benevolent Society, and was supported principally by the members of the Lodge, and its existence was acknowledged by the following resolution passed on the sixth day of March, 1832, as shown in the Minute Book, viz.—That the Spitalfields Benevolent Society receive the patronage of the "Knights of Trafalgar," and since then it has been associated with the Lodge.

✠ NOTE. ✠

"THE KNIGHTS OF TRAFALGAR," instituted in the year 1809, in honor of England's greatest champion, Admiral Lord NELSON, and the Benevolent Society founded in connexion therewith, in the year 1826, and entitled "THE SPITALFIELDS BENEVOLENT SOCIETY," were amalgamated September 12th, 1889, under the title of

"THE KNIGHTS OF TRAFALGAR SPITALFIELDS BENEVOLENT SOCIETY."

The object of the Society is to provide funds for the Distribution of Bread and Coals among the poor of Spitalfields and neighbourhood during the winter months of each year, and is supported by Members' Subscriptions, Donations, Proceeds of Entertainments, &c., &c.

The following is a copy of the last report Mr R. could find.

Report, 1895–96.

Dear Sir,

In presenting to you the Report and Balance Sheet of the past year's work of this Society, your Committee are able to point with pardonable pride and satisfaction to the continued prosperity which has attended their efforts.

After payment of the few actual and necessary expenses, there remains a balance of £459 11s. 7d., which (after providing the Donors to this Society with bread and coal tickets) will enable each member to receive 26 coal and 26 bread tickets.

The Committee wish to call the attention of the Donors to this Society that they have this year returned to them their donations in tickets for bread and coals less five per cent.

Your Committee take this opportunity of thanking the Donors for the very liberal manner in which they have responded to their appeal on behalf of this Charity, and by which they will be enabled to distribute during the coming winter over 10,000 tickets for bread and 10,000 tickets for coal.

The net profit derived from the two Entertainments which the Society hold annually amounts this year to £174 11s. 0d.

Your attention is called to the very trifling expense at which the Society is carried on; all the work is undertaken voluntarily, and as there are no paid officers, subscribers have the satisfaction of knowing that their donations and subscriptions are almost exclusively applied towards the charitable purposes for which they are intended.

We forward herewith the proportion of tickets for bread and coals to which you are entitled, the same being available between the 21st December, 1896, and the 31st March, 1897; referring you to the conditions printed thereon, and relying upon your *co-operation in assisting* us to carry them out as far as practicable.

We remain,
On behalf of the Committee,
Yours faithfully,

G. O. REDMOND, } *Hon. Secs.*
C. S. FOWLER, }

Committee Room,
140, Brick Lane,

The nature of the Society appears sufficiently clear in the Report: it differs only from others of the same character in the nature of its origin – (it is the sole survivor of our 100 Lodges of the Knights of Trafalgar and still holds the weekly meeting for "Harmony" which was its original raison d'être) – and the fact that it is on a rather larger scale and therefore more mischievous.

The members are all tradesmen: but considerable donations and subscriptions are given by outsiders such as Markes M.P., Sir Samuel Montagu, the Bishop of Bedford etc, who receive their full quota of Bread and Coal tickets: most of the M.P's who subscribe give their tickets to their political agent for distribution. Mr R. while claiming himself to have a nose for an imposter, admitted that most of their charity was very badly administered: "most of the members hand the tickets to their wives" and women are the worst of almoners." Speaking on the general question of charitable relief in the district Mr. R., who is a churchman, said he thought the

greatest offenders of all were the ministers of all denominations who almost to a man limit their relief to those who come to church or meetings. Mr R. lives within the precincts of the Jaffa, and said that this was Jaffa's invariable rule, and mentioned several cases of people to ~~whom~~ whom he had given bread tickets, whom Jaffa had refused to relieve on the ground that they did not attend church: he said however that Jaffa was "an excellent fellow".

In showing the persistency of the Jew Mr R. mentioned that Jews were joining the Society in large numbers, that he had been obliged to accept a Jew as co-ttee. &c, that their object was to capture the Society "as they always do any Society when they once get into it".

Mr R. who keeps a small shop for brushes, varnishes etc was born in the house in which he lives some 45 years ago, and I should have liked to have questioned him as to changes in the district, but he was exceedingly garrulous about his society: this added to the fact that

our talk was carried on under great difficulties owing to constant interruptions to serve customers ~~and~~ forced me to come away with little else than particulars as to the society. Mr R. did however say that the district was enormously improved: this however he attributed rather to the Boundary St demolitions and the eviction of the Gentile by the Jew than to ~~a~~ any great moral improvement. As to the Boundary St buildings he said that Jews were flocking into them and in spite of County Council regulations he thinks they are already beginning to outlet.

Dictated

Miscell 7.8.9

(2)

(Feb. 10.98.)

Interview with Mr J. Mackay one of the Hon Secretaries of the Mr George in the East Cost. Committee.
at 19a Commercial Road.

We discussed various questions mainly those raised by Form E, for about an hour & a half but most of the general opinions of Mr Mackay on Mr George & the material position of the people are contained in the following Report of his Committee. The Report was written by Mr M. after a conversation with the leaders on the general position & covering the corporate opinion as well as his own. The conclusions are (1) that Mr George's is a very poor neighbourhood that poverty is probably more widely-spread than in the poor. (2) that the C.O.S. Committee is well-known & has built its own members thro' the corporation of the clergy & others & likely to have a good deal to do with appropriately dealt; (3) that in spite of this the number of applications is diminishing, & (4) that therefore there is good ground for inferring that the spirit of personal independence is being strengthened. The evidence is largely negative: they are not known, for instance, that the local friendly societies are receiving any considerable accession of members & the slight connexion between the C.O.S. & the local societies, especially with the East London Welfare Mission, increases the value of the negative

evidence they, but still the inference to which he has arrived is found to be subscribed by a committee that are not at all general opinions lately; that means among the leaders devoid of scientific experience. They have the reputation of being biassed by a theoretical position, but a man like Murray is not likely to allow his head to run away with his heart in regard to a question that he knows well: there was certainly no hardness of tone in our conversation on Thursday. On the contrary the fact of finding was clearly uppermost in his mind; he would gladly recommend a considerable distribution by stating "the income of water in the parish could be another" were it not that "no amount of alms giving can counteract the poverty of the people into abundance".

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THE

Charity Organization Society.

ST. GEORGE-IN-THE-EAST COMMITTEE.

ANNUAL REPORT,

1896-97.

London:
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1897.

St. George-in-the-East Committee.

Chairman:

Mr. P. M. MARTINEAU, J.P.*

Rev. A. BAXTER.

Rev. C. S. CAIN.

Miss H. CARTWRIGHT.*

Miss COWIE.*

Rev. H. C. DIMSDALE, Vicar of Christ Church.

Rev. G. G. ELLIOTT.

Rev. H. ISELIN.

Rev. H. HENMAN, Vicar of St. Mary's.

Miss HOARE.

Rev. W. G. MUNK.

Rev. H. LAURENCE TAYLOR.

Rev. Prebendary C. H. TURNER.

Rev. L. S. WAINRIGHT, Vicar of St. Peter's*

* Those marked with an Asterisk are Guardians of the Poor.

Hon. Secretaries:

Mr. A. G. CROWDER, J.P., Guardian of the Poor.

Mrs. A. G. CROWDER.

Mr. T. MACKAY.

Agent:

Mr. F. SAPSFORD.

Offices:—194, COMMERCIAL ROAD, E.

REPORT.

THE Committee feels itself fortunate in being able to report another uneventful year. A mild winter, the fairly prosperous condition of trade and an absence, in this part of London of any acute labour disputes, have happily combined to render its relief work comparatively light.

The expenditure on general account remains practically the same, a small deficit is carried over to next year. The Committee can now point to 25 years of steady and continuous work, on the now well understood principles which have been very frequently explained in these reports. An office and a salaried agent are necessary parts of the Committee's policy, but every care is taken to keep the working expenses within reasonable limits. The Committee feels that its expenditure on this head is well justified and carefully considered, and, while thanking its present subscribers and seeking a renewal of their support, it ventures, in addition, to ask their good offices in securing a few more subscribers to this fund.

The Relief Account, owing to the causes above mentioned, shows a diminished expenditure. This is not so large as the figures appear to indicate. By an accident of account keeping, the last instalment of pensions, which is usually paid out in the end of September, was not issued till October. After allowance for this has been made, the relief expenditure on pensions and on other forms of relief is less, by about £80 (*i.e.* about £40 on each account), than in the preceding year.

It is no part of the Committee's policy to be the means of distributing the largest possible amount of relief. They regard it as matter for congratulation that demands for relief are less pressing.

The continued policy of the guardians in restricting outdoor relief, and the diminishing demand on such sources of relief as are within the cognisance of the Committee, encourage the hope that each year a larger balance of the burden of poverty is being met by wiser

economy and more provident habits among the poor themselves. This is the object to which the effort of the Committee during all these years has been mainly directed.

There is, of course, relief given away in the district of which the Committee has no cognisance, but there is no reason to suppose that there has been any great or permanent increase in such funds, and the applications made to the Committee are, in its opinion, a fair index of the charitable requirements of the neighbourhood. The Committee has been long established in its present offices, they are well known to the poor, to the clergy and the relieving officers, and applications for relief are constantly being brought to the Committee's notice through these channels. Yet the applications are not numerous. This is not the result of any increased strictness in the requirements of the Committee as to the character and antecedents of its accepted applicants. In view of the strict administration of the poor law which gives no outdoor relief, the Committee have knowingly adopted a somewhat lower standard than is required at other committees of the Society.

On the other hand, the Committee is well aware of the extreme poverty of the district. If they thought that the object could be wisely obtained by a charitable distribution, they could conscientiously recommend that most of the incomes of the parish should be doubled. They also know that if their relief policy was less careful and restrained, applicants might be multiplied to an indefinite extent.

The Committee, in adopting this attitude, does not deny or cease to sympathise with the hardships of poverty, but it cannot forget that the highest considerations of public policy and humanity make it incumbent on the charitable to encourage the poor to bear what is tolerable in their lot. Such toleration is not passive and despairing; on the contrary it results in the acquisition of those arts of independence, by which alone an amelioration of their condition can be brought about. The best instincts of the poor incline them to get on as long as thay can without relief, and in the conduct of its applicants the Committee thinks it can find evidence that its policy has, without any undue harshness, tended to uphold this salutary spirit of independence. The Committee has been frequently struck by the way in which after an interval of 5, 10 or even

15 years, their applicants come back to them. They have lived without assistance during the interval, in poverty no doubt, and occasionally in privation, but still in independence; and when, in their own judgment, their condition is no longer tolerable, and only then, they have not hesitated to renew their application to the Committee. If a different policy had been adopted and if relief had been pressed on these poor people, they might have been kept in a permanent state of dependence, and, what is perhaps more important, a policy of greater profusion, such as that suggested, would have kept in dependence some of that numerous class of the Committee's applicants, who, after being helped once, become permanently independent. The Committee therefore is deliberately of opinion that it is their duty to act with restraint in the matter of relief. No amount of almsgiving can convert the poverty of the people of St. George's into abundance. Progress in this direction can only be attained by an improvement in the economic habits and character of the people. Such improvement, the Committee is sincerely of opinion, will be found to vary in inverse proportion to the facilities for obtaining relief.

The Committee's business is with the organisation of relief, and it has no official connection with a modest experiment which is being promoted by some of its members. At the same time, after this recital of the diminished amount of relief that is being given, it is glad to point to a work which it is hoped will make relief even less than it is at present. In view of the undoubted fact that the earnings of the poor are, in many if not in all cases, more than sufficient for the absolute necessaries of life, and in view of an alleged lack of adequate and convenient opportunities for saving, some ladies and gentlemen (among them members of this Committee) have started, on a modest and limited scale, a small Collecting Savings Bank. Mrs. Crowder will be glad to hear of any ladies or gentlemen who will undertake to make a weekly call in certain streets for the purpose of collecting the savings of such of the residents as choose to avail themselves of the convenience.

The experiment in St. George's is new, but elsewhere such institutions have met with great success. It is confidently asserted by those who are best qualified to judge that with the rarest exceptions

none of the depositors in these Collecting Banks have ever made, or are the least likely to make, use of the Post Office Savings Bank. The experiment has the Committee's best wishes, if the collectors can do anything to remove the initial friction which keeps the poor depositor away from the Post Office and similiar institutions they are doing an excellent work, and it is glad to give such publicity as it can to Mrs. Crowder's appeal for volunteers.

The Committee desire to acknowledge its obligation to Messrs. Peters & Bolton, Solictors, for their kindness in clearing the title of one of its applicants to some property and for carrying out a sale on his behalt. The work entailed a great amount of trouble and has resulted most satisfactorily.

It has also to record with great regret the loss of its Chairman the Rev. Prebendary Turner, in consequence of his resignation of the Rectory of St. George-in-the-East. For some fifteen years Mr. Turner has supported the Committee by his council and by his presence in the chair, and his services to the cause of a wise administration of public relief have been invaluable. His departure is a great loss both on personal and public grounds to the whole parish. He has consented to remain a Member of the Committee, and it is hoped that he may still occasionally attend and give the Committee the benefit of his advice.

Mr. P. M. Martineau has been elected Chairman in his place. This is the Committee's sole ground of consolation, for Mr. Martineau's position of Chairman of the Tower Bench of Magistrates and his long connection with the public life of the district will, it is hoped, secure for the Committee a continuance of local support.

The Honorary Secretaries desire the Committee to reprint the following paragraph from last year's report:—

"A favour would be conferred on the Honorary Secretaries and Treasurer, if subscribers would pay their subscriptions on receipt of this report, or on the first of January."

Charity Organization Society—St. George-in-the-East Committee. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT.

Dr. GENERAL FUND.—Receipts and Expenditure (Office Expenses) from October 1st, 1896, to September 30th, 1897. **Cr.**

RECEIPTS.

	£	s.	d.
To Balance at Bank on October 1st, 1896	3	6	4
,, Annual Subscriptions	70	2	0
,, Grants made by Council	113	3	2
,, Deficit (advanced from Relief Fund)	3	11	8
	£190	3	2

EXPENDITURE.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
By Cleaning, Firing, &c.				16	5	0
,, Postage				7	0	2
,, Stationery and Printing				5	13	1
,, Charges				3	13	3
,, Salaries—Agent	150	0	0			
Occasional Assistance ...	7	11	8			
				157	11	8
				£190	3	2

Dr. RELIEF ACCOUNT.—Receipts and Expendirure from October 1st, 1896, to September 30th, 1897. **Cr.**

RECEIPTS.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Balance in hand on October 1st, 1896—						
At Bank	43	3	9			
In hand	10	0	0			
				53	3	9
,, Contributions for Relief—						
For Pensions	405	13	6			
,, Other Relief	157	11	6			
				563	5	0
,, Applicants property recovered for him				124	13	6
				£741	2	3

EXPENDITURE.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
By Payments for Pensions	386	8	6			
Other Relief	145	14	9			
				532	3	3
,, Applicants property handed over to him				124	13	6
,, Balance—Advance to General Fund ...	3	11	8			
At Bank	70	13	10			
In hand	10	0	0			
				84	5	6
				£741	2	3

T. MACKAY, *Hon. Secretary.*

P. M. MARTINEAU, *Hon. Treasurer and Chairman.*

AUDITOR'S CERTIFICATE.—We, the undersigned, having examined the above Accounts with the Books, Counterfoil Receipt Books, and Vouchers of the Committee, and find the same to be in accordance therewith. We have also verified the Cash at the Bankers, and counted the Cash in hand.

London, E.C., 13*th November*, 1897.

GÉRARD VAN DE LINDE & SON, *Chartered Accountants.*

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Charity Organization Society, St. George-in-the-East Committe

1st October, 1896, to 30th September, 1897.

Contributions to the General Fund.

	£	s.	d.
Mr. H. L. Arbuthnot ...	1	1	0
Miss Arden	2	2	0
Miss A. Browne	2	0	0
Mr. F. Crowder	8	8	0
Mr. W. H. Crowder	2	2	0
Messrs. Dodsworth	0	10	0
Messrs. Fairclough & Sons ...	1	1	0
Mrs. Howard	0	10	0
Messrs. Hoare & Co. ...	5	0	0
Mr. H. E. Hoare	10	0	0
Miss Hoare	3	0	0
Messrs. Hind & Son	1	1	0
Mr. C. W. Lawrence ...	0	10	0
Mr. A. M. Lee	5	0	0
Carried forward	42	5	0

	£	s.	d.
Brought forward	42	5	0
Mr. T. Mackay	10	0	0
Mr. P. M. Martineau ..	5	0	0
Messrs. Pinchin & Johnson ...	2	0	0
Mr. A. Pell	2	0	0
Messrs. G. Scott & Son ...	1	1	0
Messrs. Sly, Dibble & Co. ...	1	11	6
Messrs. Stutfield & Sons ...	1	1	0
Hon. E. Towry Law ...	5	0	0
Sale of Directory	0	3	6
Council of the Charity Organization Society	113	3	2
	£183	5	2

Contributions Received for the Relief of Various Cases of Distress.

	£	s.	d.
Mr. H. L. Arbuthnot ...	1	1	0
Mr. J. Badcock	5	16	0
Miss A. Browne	3	0	0
Central Office of the Society...	45	3	0
,, Rebate Convalescent cases	5	9	6
,, Rebate Surgical cases	5	16	6
Contributions from applicants and their friend ...	19	16	0
Mrs. A. G. Crowder	5	18	0
Mr. A. G. Crowder	25	4	0
Miss Dale	2	12	0
Miss Davidson	0	17	6
Miss M. E. Druce	5	0	0
Miss Haynes	2	6	0
Miss Hoare	5	4	0
Invalid Children's Aid Association	0	13	6
Mr. A. M. Lee	5	0	0
London Hospital— per Rev. J. Mahomed ...	2	0	0
Mr. F. C. Mills	5	0	0
Miss Phipps	2	12	0
Mr. Smellie, junr.	0	19	6
Miss Smith	2	12	0
St. Katharine's Precincts Charities	66	7	0
Tower Hamlets Pension Committee	242	0	0
Carried forward	460	7	6

	£	s.	d.
Brought forward	460	7	6
Thames Police Court— per Mr. Dickenson ...	1	0	0
Church Districts—			
Rectory, per Rev. Prebendary Turner	13	10	4
Christ Church, per Rev. H. C. Dimsdale	15	10	9
St. Peter's, per Rev. L. S. Wainright	26	0	0
St. Mary's, per Rev. H. Henman	2	9	0
Society for the Relief of Distress—			
Rectory, per Mr. Crowder	12	19	3
St. Peter and St. John of Wapping, per Mr. Martineau	12	13	0
St. John's, per Mr. Crowder	3	9	6
Christ Church ,, ,,	6	14	6
St. Mary's, per Mr. Mackay	8	11	2
	563	5	0
Messrs. Peters & Bolton, Solrs. Property recovered for an applicant	124	13	6
	£687	18	6

The Jews.

Effect of trade regulations.

Difficulties of political organization.

Disappearance of the Cempitos.

Mr Allen has a favourable opinion of the Jews as a law-abiding people who are commendingly, in spite of their poverty & their beginning, ~~are~~ by a striking forecast for getting on. He thinks that the energy & courage of exceptionally intelligent habits of overcoming require a good deal of confirmation. They are coming into posts of the Jewish with great rapidity, & allowance has to be made for this in interpreting the relations of crimes with Poor Law, the Jews being of course dealt with mainly by the J.B.G.

The effects of the alterations in trade conditions are difficult to trace. The presumption is that there are more dock-labourers in a degraded industrial position than formerly, but a large class still exists that forms the 3 days a week class, & it is one of the difficulties of the authorities to deal respectably. The less competent men, who is the chief by the demand for a higher standard of work, is rarely met with now: they have been shaved away. But the difficulties of political organization come up from time to time, both in connexion with trade regulations & in connexion with the Trade Union & the Building Trades.

The disappearance of the Cempitos, or of the commercial type of applicant, has been fairly certain, & satisfactory. It would appear that as a rule they are able to earn a livelihood, for the moment.

drink.

The competing impulses of life.

& not holding this place.

They generally find that more or less directly drink comes in as an expenditure of trouble in the home & workers find drink a high place in the competing attractions of life. It is because of the supreme need of creating a strong competing impulse into it & correlative wholesome, cheaper, etc. that I am led to advocate what may seem to be an extreme severity in the administration of the Poor Law & the distribution of charity. We want "the desire to be able to keep themselves & their children" to compete with the desire for drink. Hence our policy. Life is an a question of the relation in which various impulses stand to each other. We want to strengthen the impulse to independence.

He has no evidence that the habit of drinking among women has increased, & with regard to a great many drinks we may see how it comes!

He appreciates the value of clubs for the men — what he proposes called the "cutting out" plan, but thinks that these clubs rarely attract those who stand in most need of the above mentioned counter-influence. Temperance club members are as a rule a

The Clergy.

Wainwright.

Herman Muras.
Cotter & Chas Bennett

Relations with the Norcons

Modern respectable life.

With the clergy of St George's relations are very friendly, & Prebendary Turner had for some time been Chairman of Committee until he left St George's. With the exception of Turner & Herman however cooperation is mainly financial. Wainwright & Binsdale they help, for instance, of their own cases but do not profess any allegiance to C.O.L. principles. Wainwright is a "sort of saint", the best-hearted & most generous of men, whom his own people have to guard from interruption during his own meals lest he should not only not eat, but very likely give the food away. He never says no; but whatever one may think of his judgment, we are no two opinions about the man. Binsdale is a good fellow; Herman writes very thoughtful; Turner capable & authoritative. Dr Cotter & Chas. Bennett are those with whom we are in the closest touch. They are friendly, lax, & generally complain that they have no funds.

With the Norcons they have been able to do but little, & Peter Thompson doesn't really appreciate their point of view. He once said that if people came to chapel & heard him & got four pence "it was a fair bargain". To attend Wednesday

A criticism of the C.O.S.

Religious influence.

to a saying of that kind would be unfair to Thompson. He is a very good fellow, but the fact remains that his point of view on matters of morality is quite different from theirs.

After having spoken of Peter Thompson from that point of view Mackay quoted a criticism of the C.O.S. passed by one of Thompson's workers - he mentioned Mr Jackson. He was those people who "mackay" did not know. They did not live among the people, & could not really judge of sister their opportunities or their needs. "This perhaps tells against us", said Mackay, but my answer would be that we are all practically agreed as to the reality of the need of the poor & respect at the bottom of our hearts the high ideals. But we differ as to the best methods to adopt for raising this standard, & helping them. (Mackay was indeed to discuss the dangers of Nonconformity with Peter Thompson in this connection).

As to the effect of the Church, Mackay thought that the strongest influence was being exercised by the High Church section. It was difficult to judge however as to what the real personal effect on character was, or as to the ways in which this influence was mainly exerted. From what he heard he was inclined to attach a great deal of importance to the work of a certain class of priests who, in the Confession of [illegible] This seems to contrast in a vital way the High Church teaching to formalism. Men like Turner & Hermon, would be thought, as leaders & preachers, a cut too high

Old-Age Relief

The Tower Hamlets Pension Fund.

for Evil-Doers, & he mentioned as a somewhat analogous case how a Low Churchman had told him of the way in which Barnett, preaching a Low Churchman at St Jude's had scattered the congregation. The more negative, human teaching can never take the Evil-Doers as "the Gospel" from Low Churchmen can & sometimes does. But for the moment the High Churchman seems to take the field.

"Old-Age Relief" has never been made an election cry for the Guardians at St George's, but, in spite of the wide-spread belief in the present policy, working in and light of its whole record, an election fought on the Old-Age Relief platform. At the present moment it is some of the Conservatives who have got hold of the idea that it would make a good election cry. But it may be kept out.

Working during that the Tower Hamlets Pension Fund has taken care at any time in the past. There was a period when they could act ~~with~~ no poor cases, but he claims that "their resources were found ~~wanting~~" by both or by credit they have always managed, & "have never refused a proper case". Some of the funds administered by the City Parochial Funds Trustees are ~~earmarked~~ earmarked for

Mrs. on friendly visiting &c

decisions ~~at~~ the present moment the trustees are working up their minds as to whether this money shall be administered centrally or ~~district~~ by local Committees. It is probable that a decision will be reached very long free a considerable amount for pensions.

The A.O.F. Court (Men, Women, & Juvenile) mentioned recently at the one they generally recommend their people to join. The local Court of the Oddfellows was a little too expensive. It might be worth while seeing Mr. Russell, the Secretary.

Miss F. Bridgfield, the General Secretary of the National Deposit-Friendly Soc. This combines a savings bank with insurance.

Hemman has a Collecting Bank in which a great deal of the collecting is done by neighbours on rather a novel & remunerative plan.

Selim (one of Hemman's Cards) & Albert Fry, has been making rather a study of the Early Marriage question & might be seen.

We see a good deal about the ~~[illegible]~~ St. George's Wapping Friendly Society girls now, "because the elections are coming on".

Sickness, Accident & Death are sure to come !

Ancient Order of Foresters

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES,

SOUTH LONDON DISTRICT.

Worth of District Funeral Fund exceeds £20,400.

(Registered pursuant to Act of Parliament).

Court "Princess Royal," No. 3,395

(FOR MEN), held at

St. Mary's Lower Hall, Johnson Street, St. George's, E.

Meeting Nights—Alternate Tuesdays.

Accumulated Capital in Sick Fund exceeds £1800, over 300 members
Entrance Fee, 5/-, which can be paid by instalments.
Contributions according to age at the time of joining.
Probationary members 16 to 18—7d. per fortnight.
Benefits: £6 at death and Six Shillings per week in sickness.

FORTNIGHTLY CONTRIBUTIONS

FOR FULL MEMBERS.

Age at Entry	s. d.	Age at Entry	s. d.	Age at Entry	s. d.
16	1 1½	24	1 5	32	1 8
17	1 2	25	1 5½	33	1 8½
18	1 2½	26	1 5½	34	1 9
19	1 3	27	1 6	35	1 9½
20	1 3½	28	1 6	36	1 10
21	1 4	29	1 6½	37	1 10½
22	1 4½	30	1 7	38	1 11
23	1 5	31	1 7½	39	1 11½

And 4d. per Quarter all Ages to the Benevolent Fund.

BENEFITS—14/- per week for first 26 weeks; 7/- per week for second 26 weeks; 3/6 per week for next 52 weeks.

Half free to Sick Fund fully free to Funeral Benefits in six months; and fully free to Sick Fund in twelve months from date of joining.

FUNERAL BENEFITS—£12 on death of a member; £6 on Death of a Member's Wife.

Free to Doctor and Medicine on joining.

Help in need may be given to all members from Court and District Benevolent Funds.

Intending members should observe that the payment at entrance remains the same to the end of life; *e g* a member joining at 20 pays 1/3½ for the term of his natural life.

Besides the Court having a relative degree of solvency of 22/- in the £. the average age of the members is only 28 years; a sufficient guarantee that the above scale of contributions is ample to cover all the benefits promised to its members in the future.

Further information can be given by any of the Officers and Members of Courts Nos. 3395 and 8109; or to

Bro. THOMAS RUSSELL, P.D.C.R., Secretary.
3, MILE END PLACE, MILE END, E.

Sickness, Accident and Death are sure to come!!

ANCIENT ORDER OF FORESTERS

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES,

SOUTH LONDON DISTRICT.

(Registered pursuant to Act of Parliament).

Court "Princess May," No. 8,109

(FOR WOMEN)

In connection with the above District.

MEETING NIGHTS—Alternate Tuesdays from 8 to 10 p.m.

An opportunity is thus afforded to Healthy Young Women between 16 and 39 years of age to join the Society, and make provision for times of Sickness Distress and Death.

Relative degree of solvency at last Valuation, 21/8 in the £.

FORTNIGHTLY CONTRIBUTIONS

AGE	CLASS A	CLASS B	CLASS C	AGE	CLASS A	CLASS B	CLASS C
16	0 7½	0 8½	1 1	28	0 8½	0 10½	1 4½
17	0 7½	0 8½	1 1½	29	0 9	0 10½	1 5
18	0 7½	0 9	1 2	30	0 9	0 10½	1 5½
19	0 7½	0 9	1 2	31	0 9	0 10½	1 5½
20	0 8	0 9	1 2½	32	0 9	0 11	1 6
21	0 8	0 9	1 2½	33	0 9½	0 11	1 6
22	0 8	0 9½	1 3	34	0 9½	0 11½	1 6
23	0 8	0 9½	1 3½	35	0 10	0 11½	1 6
24	0 8	0 9½	1 3½	36	0 10	1 0	1 7
25	0 8½	0 10	1 4	37	0 10½	1 0	1 8
26	0 8½	0 10	1 4	38	0 10½	1 0½	1 9
27	0 8½	0 10	1 4½	39	0 10½	1 0½	1 10

Entrance Fee, 2/6, which can be paid by instalments.

BENEFITS—Class A: **5**s. per week in sickness for six months; **2/6** per week in sickness for six months; **1/3** per week in Sickness for second twelve months; **£6** at Death of Member.

Class B—**7/-** per week in Sickness for six months; **3/6** per week in Sickness for six months; **2/-** per week in Sickness for second twelve months; **£6** at Death of Member.

Class C—**14/-** per week in Sickness for six months; **7/-** per week in Sickness for six months; **3/6** per week for second twelve months; **£12** at Death of Member.

Help in need may be given to all members from Court and District Benevolent Funds.

All Members are Free to Medical Attendance and Medicine on joining. Half free to Sick Fund and fully free to Funeral Benefits in six months. Fully free to Sick Fund in twelve months from date of admission.

Intending members should observe that the payment at entrance REMAINS the SAME to the end of life; *e. g.* a member joining Class C at 20 pays 1/2½ per fortnight for the natural term of her life.

Further information can be given by any of the Officers and Members of Courts No. 3395 and 8109, or by

Bro. THOMAS RUSSELL, P.D.C.R., Secretary,

3, Mile End Place, Mile End, E

Sickness, Accident and Death are sure to come!!!

Ancient Order of Foresters

"PRINCESS ROYAL,"

Boy and Girl Foresters' Society

Founded November 11th, 1879. Registered pursuant to Act of Parliament.

Has a Reserve Fund of over £275.

HELD AT THE

St. Mary's Lower Hall, Johnson St.,

Corner of Cable Street, St. George's, E.

Trustees:

BRO. S. POUND, P.C.R., F. C. MILLS, P.C.R., J.P., W. WILLSON, P.C.R.

Medical Officer:

BRO. ALEXANDER GRANT, M.D., L.R.C.S.E.

MEETING NIGHTS: Alternate Tuesdays, 6 till 8 p.m.

Entrance Fee, Sixpence.

FORTNIGHTLY CONTRIBUTIONS.

Class	Age	Sick and Funeral	Medical Fund	Distress	Management.	Total.
A	1 to 5	¾d.	1d.	¼d.	1d.	3d.
B	6 to 9	1¾d.	1d.	¼d.	1d.	4d.
C	10 to 13	2¾d.	1d.	¼d.	1d.	5d.
D	14 to 18	3¼d.	1½d.	¼d.	1d.	6d.

BENEFITS.

Class A—To medicine, medical attendance and £4 at death.

Class B—To medicine, medical attendance, 2/- per week in sickness and £5 at death.

Class C—To medicine, medical attendance. 4/- per week in sickness and £6 at death.

Class D—To medicine, medical attendance, 6/- per week in sickness and £8 at death.

Free to Doctor and Medicine on joining; to Sick and Funeral Money in six months from date of admission.

Members attaining the age of 16 years, their entrance fee is paid to any sound financial Court of the Ancient Order of Foresters.

For further particulars apply to the Court House any Tuesday evening between 6-30 and 9, or to

Bro. THOMAS RUSSELL, P.D.C.R., Secretary,

3, Mile End Place, Mile End, E.

Mackay will be very glad to be of any further help, if he can, particularly as since he has been "one of Mr Barton's critics". His address, in National Pensions has led him to review the state of London, hoping to examine the method on which results were based. But he did not think, that Mr Barton was less conscious than he of the difficulty of obtaining a common standard when the data had to be gleaned from many minds. Their only difference lay in the opinion as to how far these difficulties could be at least overcome. ~~[illegible]~~ His respect for Mr Barton's work was unqualified, & he would like to send him congratulations on its approaching completion.

District 8

Miscell 7.8.9

C/N 2

Interview with Mr A. G. Crowder, Secy to the Hon. Sec. for Diffusion C.O.S. member of the Valley Society & member of Guardians, & to Montague Square. Feb. 11. 98.

Mr Crowder has asked us to see Mr Mackay rather than himself, as he regards his colleague as the trained economist whose evidence would be of most value. Mr C. however being a member of both the local Boards was also seen, & a few points were raised that were not discussed with Mr M. To a great extent the opinions of one are a replica of those of the other, & they must be taken as colleagues. Mr. has I think the more trained mind, & when he had once realized that we wanted not statistics but opinions from him, he did his best to formulate them for us, & was even glad to be asked to do so. C. was more easily drawn into a general conversation, but the concrete application of the latter was apt to be almost unsupported by the former into a mental sense of the general conclusion, & "leaves of the particulars" is in danger of leaving with him not simply a wise maxim but a riddle. It seems a shame to criticise the habits of mind of a man who has done this doing such tremendously good work & who has shown himself so the interests not

Agreement with workers.

The composition of the B. of Guardians.

Opinion on Old Poor Relief.

very great kindness & patience, but it was almost amusing at times to see him cry with chagrin & never felt as he seemed to be reaching some general conclusion. At the back of his own mind there is of course a fixed general conclusion, this is the key to our his opinions & his public action. It may be stated in an adaptation of Spencer's title: we must protect the Man against the State.

On the general face of things towards a more widely spread poverty (or fewness of means) & greater independence of character; on the facts & their effect on the distinct relations; on the influence or regard increasing, despite the diminution & the absence of positive proof; & on the outlook of restlessness & the increasing drinking habits of women Crooder varied working.

This Board of Guardians is rather a good one, much better than it was. The Chairman is a very useful man, the two Labour members, Mr Thompson & Father Wainwright help to give it a personal character. There is no active feeling in favour of one-man ruling on the Board, that takes the character of a propaganda, but the question is always coming up on individual cases. They are not worldly like Stepney, but whenever a case comes

His own influence

on Pensions.

Wainright & the Poor Relief

Peter Thompson.

up is always hard to be argued & he is never certain how the decision will go. Often what would be done if he were not on the Board he said that he was afraid that if he were not present to speak & take over the case, if appropriate for a pension, the policy would not be followed. He did not regard the provision of voluntary pensions as a necessary adjunct to a state administration. In practice, public opinion being what it is, it is necessary, but the pension cases are so few that he would undertake, if he had the power, to show the Poor law satisfactorily without pensions.

Father Wainright wanted to abrogate the Poor Relief, then he finds Poor, but C. bore him & he clothes to wait & see, after becoming a member. The expectation was that Father W. would bring up a lot of his people, but this never came. To C. this is a matter of surprise, & satisfaction. But on the Board W. always votes for what C. regards as liberal, except of course when there is a "job on": then he is straight as possible. Towards Father W. as a man the opinion of C. is like that of nearly everybody: he has the greatest appreciation for him.

Of Peter Thompson C. spoke very much as Mrs did. He is a good fellow, who laughs at pauperization. He seems to act on Carlyle's Hancock maxim of "get them work, no matter how".

Evidence from Some nos. of cases

Effect of Church & Charity Charity.

Crowther thinks that the failure to produce cases, as by Westminster, is a proof that their policy is right. The whole article is unsound. Such cases of hardship would be sure to be known.

Admits the general influence of Church & Charity charity C.O.S. has hitherto, but when the question was put regarding the opinion was asked as to what would be the effect if it was all withdrawn, he said that if the present policy of keeping back beyond C.O.S. cases was continued, the withdrawal would not be felt much. The real work is done by agents of orders. Even Turner seemed to be guilty of this kind of maladministration. He was "working" like nearly all. He was as rigid as the C.O.S. office but not in his own parish. I asked if he was over-ruled by his workers & staff, but he avoided saying that. He was not so Timoshenko to the temptation to distinguish the Church by charity. "If I were a clergyman, I would have nothing to do with relief". Asked if he did not think that the present practice was really short-sighted as leading to alienate the really independent working-class he heartily agreed. They are not likely to run the risk of being labeled by the charitable lot. "If I were a working-man, I would not like to be seen talking to a ~~[illegible]~~ clergyman in the street."

He mentioned a request that had been made to the Committee by a

On trade employment.

On the larger-requiring trade.

Housing.

Effect of L.C.C.

Rent & reconstruction.

Miss Elliott on behalf of the trades of Newcastle. "But the trades want to cope with an adverse outlook." Our position is so different – that we were obliged to refuse to investigate her case".

On trade employment it is probable that the worst cases have gone, the small number of applicants is prima facie evidence that a larger better-off class has come into existence.

The shutting up of unnecessary works, the lack of the larger-requirers, has led to a fall in C.O.S. cases, but only to a very few after a short-time. The C.O.S. employers seem to have "flooded away".

The finish indicates that has brought the problem has now to simplify a speculation & is willing to sell to the East London Dwelling Co. But the latter cannot appear to buy at the present price. The increased cost of labour & the policy of the L.C.C. which seems to be fading, but which means greater cost of production, makes it more difficult to build dwellings now at a reasonably profitable rate. [NB. C.O. results indicate a lowering effect on the price of building land from the increased cost of labour. He assumes that the value of building, as an asset, item. W.C. is a director of the East London Dwelling Co.]

The Lords H. Arch deserve the open space in wrapping here

drinking.

On the police.

be trials, increased over-crowding. There is certainly great need of accommodation in the district. The sentences, without exception, & other Warrington place equally closing orders, if they could possibly be avoided.

Drinking is a serious difficulty, more so with the class above them as to the poor. He mentioned the ~~city~~ trouble they have had with the lower officials – porters &c. The great consumption of St George's works for intemperance.

As regards the police his opinion is on the whole unfavourable. As a Magistrate he is constantly hearing evidence & has learnt to distrust it. The conventional answer of the inspectors is "no complaints". Their position is however a difficult one as any loose adverse opinion is at once pounced upon by the publicans or brewers counsel & if they cannot substantiate it by detailed evidence they find themselves in an awkward place.

The inspectors ~~are now~~ used to be ~~[illegible]~~ captured by the "teetotallers"; has complained to Sir Edward Bradford & learns that these proceedings are against regulations & any man remaining in the force. He will hear much of such testimonials lately, but is inclined to think that a good constable is more to be trusted than

the general run of inspectors, who "have certainly a-
bitting visited us" [within the Tenth].

At time when complaints were to be made by the police, he
was to think that now the opportunity was coming to make
an example of some delinquent, & strongly urged that the
matter should be followed up. But they were to find that
these complaints were being urged against just the wrong
people – against, in fact, the publicans who would not
bribe.

Further he suspects the police of collusion with the publicans,
in their actually opening dens of off-licence houses. The
publicans are of course delighted. In the same way the
frequent opposition of the police to granting e.g. a licence or else
leave to coffee-houses is explained. Also he thinks that
the police will not getting in the publicans that they are
too indined to let off the muscular or strongly supported
vassal. While admitting the presence of the exceptions, the
general attitude towards the police is one of suspicion. He
finds corroboration of this in the opinion not infrequently expressed
by his fellow valetudinarians or guardians that an appointment
has to be made that could apparently be never filled
by an ex-policeman. They may be answered to know ~~the~~

Sanitary inspection.

Diseases Employment.

Consider the providing of the force opinions ' doubt have a prisoner'. It is abundantly clear that their integrity is not tested.

That they should be corrupt is not however surprising, & they are probably not more so than their class. For instance, if you give a valet £1 it would generally carry you a long way. But the responsibility of the police makes us ~~expect~~ let them by a high standard.

Administration of the Factory & Workshop Act is being carried out as satisfactorily as work can be, so far as it depends on the Sanitary Authorities. A list of the workshops is being made out, & much visiting is going on. There is no overlapping, thanks to energy so far as he knows between Sanitary & Home Office Insps.

Visiting by the Sanitary Officers has to be fairly systematic or the difficulty of checking their work becomes too great.

Mentioned the possibility of over-inspection. You want the people themselves to know what they ought to have & to complain to the Sanitary Office in case of need. In consequence of telling them to do so.

Before leaving I asked Mr. C. if there were other points he had once mentioned the dangers of diverse employments, saying that

is made for foreclosure. He suspects it appears to say that men are not work for a public or for a private employer. In your district there is an especial danger, as there is greater difficulty in securing adequate results by appeals. Moreover, if large numbers are employed, the danger arising from the power of the employee as voter comes in. Mr C. however agreed that as a safeguard against risks the reference of direct employment was valuable. Only the day before, his own Vestry had been deciding about their own contract for cleaning St. C. but decided against putting it up to tender, but the reply was that there were only about 6 competitors; that the same men would get in, but that the Vestry would have to pay about £1000 more to meet the expense of bringing off the rest. So the contract was renewed.

Feb. 11th.

Miscell 7.8 9

(2)

I called to-day by appointment on Mr Albert Field who is Hon. Sec. of "the Mile End New Town Philanthropic Society for the distribution of Bread and Coal to the Deserving Poor during the winter months." I found that shortly before the appointed hour Mr Field had received a telegram from his wife summoning him home. He had left a Report of the Society with a clerk "hoping that it would contain all I wanted." The Society is of the usual character: I append Rules and Report.

RULES.

I.—The object of this Society is to supply the deserving poor with Bread and Coals during the Winter, without regard to religious persuasion.

II.—The management of the Society shall consist of a Chairman, three Trustees, twelve Committee-men, elected from the members, a Treasurer, and an Honorary Secretary or Secretaries. The Chairman, Officers and Committee shall be elected at the first meeting held in January of each year.

III.—A General Meeting of the members shall be held at the Society's House, at Eight o'clock precisely on the first Wednesday evening of each month, from October to April inclusive. Committee Meetings shall be held as often as occasion may require.

IV.—Upon receiving the written requisition of five members, the Honorary Secretary or any person acting temporarily as such, shall convene a Special General Meeting of members of the Society.

V.—All Meetings shall be convened by the Honorary Secretary, or any person acting temporarily as such. At least three days' notice shall be given of any meeting.

VI.—The Honorary Secretary shall attend all meetings of the members of the Society, and keep minutes of all proceedings of such meetings.

VII.—The Society shall be supported by an Annual Subscription of 5s. from each member, and by Donations of any amount.

Feb. 11th.

Miscell 7.8.9

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VIII.—A Concert, Entertainment or Dinner, as may be decided at a meeting of the members, shall be held each year, for the purpose of increasing the funds of the Society; such Concert, Entertainment, or Dinner shall be under the direction and control of the General Committee. Each member shall give a donation of not less than 10/- on the occasion of a Dinner, or take not less than 10/- worth of Tickets at each Benefit Entertainment, or he shall not be entitled to participate in the Annual Distribution of Tickets for Bread and Coals. Every Donor of One Guinea and upwards shall be entitled to receive tickets of the value of one-half the amount of his Donation.

IX.—The Tickets for Bread and Coals shall be forwarded during the third week of December to all members and donors entitled thereto, and shall be available for the months of December, January, February, and March only. Each Ticket must be signed by the member or donor issuing the same. The name and address of the recipient may also be noted upon the Ticket.

X.—All monies above the sum of £10 shall be paid to the Treasurer appointed to this Society, and forthwith deposited by him with the Society's Bankers.

XI.—The Honorary Secretary shall attend at the Society's House at 8 o'clock on the first Wednesday evening of each month, from October to April inclusive, to receive subscriptions and donations. The Committee shall ascertain what amount of money has been received by the Honorary Secretary since the last meeting, and see that the same is duly accounted for.

XII.—Any person desiring to become a member of this Society shall be proposed and seconded at any Monthly Meeting of the members, and admitted (if approved by a majority of the members present) upon payment of an entrance fee of 10/-.

REPORT.

THE Committee have now the pleasure to present to the members and friends of the Society the Twenty-fifth Annual Statement of Receipts and Disbursements, being for the year ended 31st December, 1897.

It is very pleasing to be able to record another year of successful work, and the Committee tender their hearty thanks to DR. AMBROSE and the other members of the Society by whose efforts the present satisfactory position has been attained. The income from all sources amounted to £246 2*s.* 0*d.*, as compared with £199 5*s.* 0*d.* in the previous year. The amount distributed in relief for the season ending 31st March, 1897, was £186 2*s.* 5*d.*, comparing with a previous average distribution of about £86, and making a total of £2,260 18*s.* 6*d.* since the Society was founded.

The Annual Festival Dinner in aid of the funds was held at the "London Tavern," Fenchurch Street, on the 10th March last, when DR. AMBROSE, M.P., occupied the chair, supported by a large and influential gathering of members and friends. As a result of the Chairman's spirited appeal, the Society's funds received a very welcome addition.

This winter 11,000 tickets for Bread and Coal of a total value of £250 are being distributed, the greater portion in the various parishes of East London. The distribution is effected by the help of the Society's 76 members, and a like number of Subscribers, each of whom acts as an Honorary Relieving Officer.

In conclusion, the Committee very earnestly appeal to all members that each should do his utmost to promote the continued success and welfare of the Society.

It is proposed to hold the Annual Dinner at the "London Tavern," Fenchurch Street, E.C., on 23rd March, 1898, when H. L. W. LAWSON, Esq., L.C.C., is expected to preside, and it is hoped every member will be present.

Signed on behalf of the Committee,

HENRY GIBBS, *Chairman.*

ALBERT FIELD, Junr., *Hon. Sec.*,

1st January, 1898.

Dittmar

Miscell 7.8.9

(2)

Interview with Mr. A. R. Price, for some 9 years manager of the Collingwood Mr. group of Board Schools, and Cooper Street, Carlton.

Feb. 11. 98.

Mr Price knows Collingwood Mr. boys intimately, (since it is the one that he has taken under his more special charge), Board Mr boys, & Mr Knowles's parish well. He knows the latter in Mr Arbuthnot's time, & compares him very favourably with the present incumbent. Knowles is a worker; has personally influential influential, & has also to command money. He carries on Arbuthnot's tradition of letting the local workers (Mr Keightley etc) have a free hand, but is really a workman. He has more influential people locally and Mr Keightley & F. C. Mills.

The Board is vastly more influential than the church, both quantitatively (in what it does - the curriculum, the lessons in discipline, tidiness etc.) & qualitatively (in the number that come under its influence). Even an ordinary Board, without anything going on except what came in the regular school work, would, Price thought, as a rule beat the Church. But what is wanted is connection with the Boards in supplement the minimum that they may be assumed to provide. Some

kind of added personal influence is wanted. The teachers generally want training, & with them their corporation can usually always be learned.

Price himself hardly ever knows the thrilling extraordinary role, & sympathy when something flagrantly neglected occurs. He has lovely pressed for one innovation — the introduction of spinning & weaving lessons as objective lessons of especial value. The great thing is that a manager should notice the teachers feel that he is willing to help, & in his own case P. certainly demonstrates this in a very conclusive way. I offset that out of things he would do & by pumping full the following innovation out of him:

He runs a Penny Bank himself.

Arranges with a nurse to come to the School — & read on the children's health.

Sends a large number to the Hospital — generally to have their teeth looked after.

Has the older children out for a day in the summer — generally down to his own home at Ps Allotments. ~~[illegible]~~ In the winter has a special party for the infants. Knows how to. (These outings & parties were not mentioned).

Free breakfasts for children needing them in the winter.

i. Two most valuable aids to this are his shop. For years he kept one of the best of the girls the young men employed a wonderful shop-boy, who had a Mr Pickwick prop that died; & now has two fascinating lads-under shop-boys. They have the run of the school; are uniform-furnished; & are looked after by the Caretakers.

Four gallons of milk provided every morning, & given at the teacher's discretion in the middle of the morning school. It amounts to about 100 glasses.

Price takes the whole of the Cooking Holiday Fund work for the School; & is continually visiting in special cases - being a recreation present, &c &c. Under his influence the performance of a Caretaker by the children has become an annual event in the School-life, & is generally respected & loved: e.g. by the present, & the old-worth clubs; at the workhouse; on the Chairman of the Ironmongers' Co. (of which P. is an present Master).

In these & in other ways Price helps to give the School a distinctive tone of its own, & to inspire that kindly feeling which is one of the main objects of everything that he does.

But it costs money. P. has a theory that for this kind of work you charge as much as you want, & he does raise about £50 a year from various sources (Referee fund &c &c.) for the breakfasts & the milk. His father gives him another £50 & one of the big prizes for the lads, the expenses of the candidate, &c &c. For all money he has given him he keeps an exact account, & a clerk produces a larger note everything duly entered up. In addition Price receives roughly that he spends about £100 a year in miscellaneous & smaller ways. He gives away very little in actual

money, & a great deal of it goes in paying off long standing debts & bringing expenditure incurred to secure work: e.g. rigging out decently the children. Thus the income on the recommendation of the master of the hospital work would be something approaching the.

In rigging out P. gets a great deal of help from friends, & reckons that he has about £20 worth clothing given by others & bought. He has actually gone up getting boots for the school children: the expense on attendance was too disastrous.

In addition the authorities of the C.H. Fund to the expense of the harvest holidays should be added.

Price has an admirable lieutenant in the School-Keeper, learning a great deal from him about the people — as to their position & difficulties. Through the School-Keeper P. has practically all his lonting, as the people are more likely to repay them. If P. had invested there would be little likelihood of the money coming back.

In closing, I may suppose that P. is very strict, & he probably says that in the School he does not try to keep to C.O.S. lines. He takes the benefit of the children as his guide: if they are obviously being benefited he would be satisfied, & practically would go on the principle of taking care of the children letting the parents take care

of [illegible]. As a matter of fact he often keeps an eye on the parents for the condition of the home is vitally affecting the children, cannot of course be kept out of account. The children are generally a lot of the home, & their dress, demeanour &c, & he is often better by teachers, & the nightly visit must show a family is going down.

Although Price is not a strict C.O.S. man he strongly condemns the dole system, & complains of Peter Thompson who spends lots of money & "drinking badly too".

Altogether Price has a frequent feeling in the towards this the possibility of making them more useful. You have the children & you have discipline: on these you can build a good deal.

He did not touch the evening class work now, mainly for the boys for the 'mills' under, & the 'shop girls' to Miss Knightley.

He strongly advised us to see Miss K. on matters of hygiene affecting the children; on a Holiday Fund for factory girls; on the work of the boarding-out Committee of the blind children; on the Tuesday evening lads, & on the proposed beer garden Miss K. could give information.

It is unlikely that the beer-garden will be started. On the advice of the best-brewer of one of the great Companies, Price

is like that unless you get a broad man to take it up, in a fair way. The politicians will dislike it; drunken men will be sent round to make a row; complaints will be made to H.H.!!

Price is in the City, on the Stock Exchange, till all his office boy after tea. But he gets down to the Council nearly four times a week, & in the winter, morning after morning, is down by about 8.15 to the children's breakfast. In the afternoon he is very late in the evening again, especially when he has the C.H.A. work on hand.

Price would hate me if he knew that I was writing this down, but he is really, in his own way, one of the best-of-fellows. His aim is the simplest, & he has no ulterior religious motive: he just works to do something to increase the enjoyment of intelligence, happiness, & health of a few children. Some years ago he rented Mallard Hall as a playroom for the children, & a friend who was promising to drive that he doesn't all right, he did not think "no" drive anywhere. He is so now. In working for the boys P. thinks that he has a single field, & would probably think politics the most negative way of thinking that "no" drive no heaven. He is a man of about 40 - single.