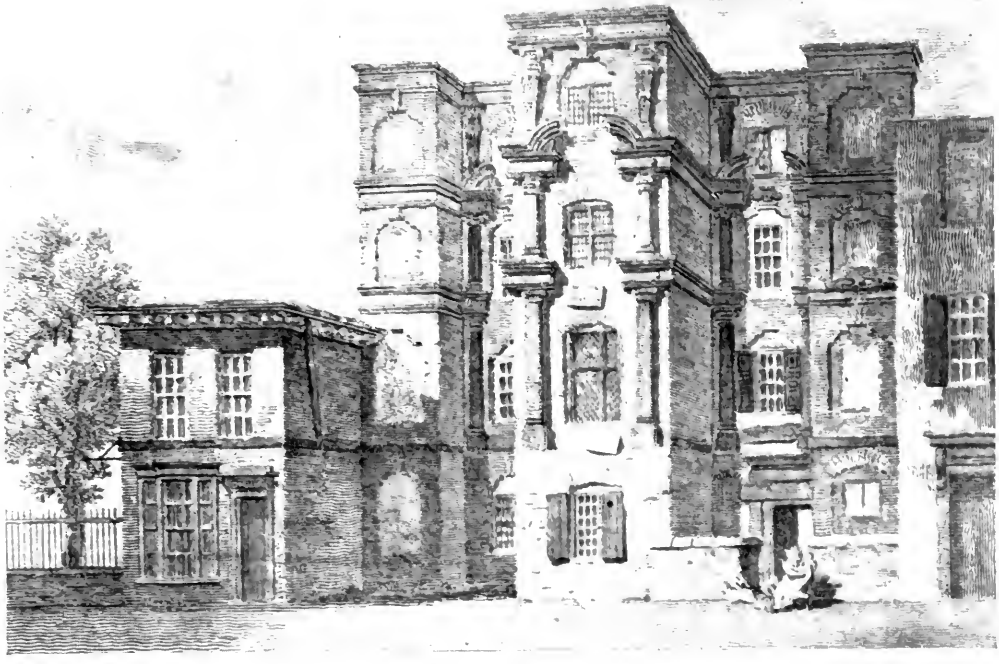
THE FASCINATION
OF LONDON

HACKNEY
AND STOKE NEWINGTON

VOLUMES IN THE SERIES.

Cloth, price 1s. 6d. net each; limp leather, price 2s. net each.

CHELSEA.
CLERKENWELL AND ST. LUKE'S.
HACKNEY AND STOKE NEWINGTON.
HAMMERSMITH, FULHAM, AND PUTNEY.
HAMPSTEAD AND MARYLEBONE.
HOLBORN AND BLOOMSBURY.
KENSINGTON.
MAYFAIR AND BAYSWATER.
SHOREDITCH AND THE EAST END
STRAND.
THE THAMES.
WESTMINSTER.



"THE TEMPLARS" AT HACKNEY.

Demolished circa 1825.

The Fascination of London

HACKNEY

AND

STOKE NEWINGTON

BY
G. E. MITTON

EDITED BY
SIR WALTER BESANT

LONDON
ADAM & CHARLES BLACK
1908

PREFATORY NOTE

It is unnecessary now to introduce the series of the Fascination of London by any explanation. Everyone knows that these little books form a part of the great Survey of London on which Sir Walter Besant laboured so lovingly before his death. Volumes covering the whole of the West End of London have been issued, and form a complete and minute history of the districts street by street. In those now contemporaneously brought out—viz., Hackney with Stoke Newington, and Shoreditch with the rest of the East End—we reach the extreme limits of our mighty Metropolis eastward. Hackney and Stoke Newington are treated in the same way as the rest of the survey, but it has been thought unnecessary to give so detailed a description of the East End. A general sketch of the East End in Sir Walter's own inimitable style adds peculiar interest to this volume, and is accompanied by a more particular account of the newer districts, where such observation is of value in view of their rapid growth and the obliteration of landmarks.

The general title of the series, as is well known, arose from a sentence of Sir Walter's when he said, "This work fascinates me more than anything I've ever done." Even in the slums of the East End he found this fascination, and, what is more, he is able to convey it to others. It may be predicted that this volume, though lacking the interest which always attaches to any district in which a reader resides, will be found to be in nothing else behind its predecessors.

As will have been noticed by anyone who has taken in the whole series, all the little books are dated about the end of the nineteenth century; their value lies in the fact that they form together a complete survey of London as it was at that time, so no attempt has been made to bring the later ones up to date, for by doing so the uniformity of the series and some of the interest would have been lost. It is astonishing to note, even in this short time, how much has changed and how much has been swept away. An attempt to describe the districts as they were then would now be impossible; but the work was carefully and completely done at the time, and is here presented as a faithful and accurate record which every Londoner who loves his city should possess.

CONTENTS

ILLUSTRATIONS

HACKNEY

Derivation.—All the proposed derivations of Hackney are unsatisfactory. The best is that which suggests that some Dane—Hakon or Hacon—claimed an island, *ey* or *ea*, in the marshes, hence "Hacon's ey." The attempt to connect the word with the hackney-coach has altogether failed. Thomas, in his manuscript, *Antiquities of Hackney*, suggests that a great battle was fought here, and that Hack is connected with the Saxon for an axe, and is the same word as "to hack or hew." Hence he sees in Hackney "the battle of the river." A family of the name of Hacon still live in the parish, and are said to have migrated here 150 years ago.

Boundaries.—Hackney is bounded on the north by Tottenham; on the east, by Walthamstow and Leyton; on the south, by Bow, Bethnal Green and Shoreditch; on the west, by Islington and Stoke Newington. It lies just within the London County Council jurisdiction, and is divided into three parliamentary boroughs—North, South, and Central Hackney. The first of these includes Stoke Newington.

HISTORY.—Several ancient manors are to be found in Hackney, of which the principal one, Lordshold, formed part of the possessions of the bishopric of London. It is not mentioned in Domesday Book, which omission Lysons accounts for by conjecturing it was included in the Survey of Stepney.

In 1551 Bishop Ridley surrendered the manor to the Crown, and it was granted to Lord Wentworth. It remained in the Wentworth family for a hundred years, until the estates of the Earl of Cleveland were forfeited to Parliament. After this it passed through many hands, remaining but a short time with any one holder, and eventually became the property of Francis Tyssen. His son succeeded him, but left only a daughter, who by marriage carried the property to the Amhurst (or, as it is now written, Amherst) family, and afterwards, through failure of male heirs, it reverted to another heiress, whose husband, William George Daniel, assumed the name of Tyssen and the arms by royal sign-manual. His eldest son took the additional name of Amherst.

The manor next in importance was that of the Knights Templars, who purchased land in the parish in 1233. Lysons gives a list of their possessions in 1308 as follows: "£6 . 1 . 8 rents of assize; thirty-five acres and a half of meadow valued at forty pence an acre, certain services of

tenants (viz. mowing twelve acres of meadow) valued at seven shillings; pleas and profits of court, half a mark and a water-mill value £1 . 6 . 8."

Lysons says these possessions were less than what the Knights had held formerly, and that was probably because they had granted part of them to one Robert de Wyke, or Wick.

Another document says that they held the mill only from the Bishop of London, and that when, at the dissolution of the Order, the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem took possession of their property, they had a lawsuit over the mill. When the Knights of St. John were dissolved, in their turn, the lands were granted to Henry, Earl of Northumberland; at his death the Crown seized the manor, and it was known as the Manor of Kingshold. In 1547 King Edward VI. granted it to the Earl of Pembroke, who sold it in the following year, and then it quickly changed owners, and was eventually bought by Francis Tyssen, who held also the manor already described. The site of either manor-house is not known with certainty, though Brooke House is by some judged to be one of them.

The third manor of importance was that which the Templars had granted to De Wick, a manor within a manor, so to say. This was also Crown property at various periods of its existence.

Maud, Countess of Salisbury, died possessed of it in 1425, having held it partly from the Bishop of London and partly from the Prior of St. John of Jerusalem. There was also a manor of Hoggerston—*i.e.*, Hoxton—which was considered to be within the parish of Hackney, but the site of it is not known.

The church was originally dedicated to St. Augustine, but changed its patron saint; it is supposed, out of compliment to the Knights of St. John. The rectory was itself a manor called Grumbold's. But the history of church and rectory belong properly to central Hackney (see p. 28).

Strype also states that about 1352 the church at Hackney was granted to the precentor of St. Paul's in lieu of that of Stortford, in Herts, which had belonged to him. This was for "the maintenance of his quality." Lysons remarks that it does not appear that this patent ever took effect.

The only historical event of any importance in the parish history is that the Duke of Gloucester and his party appeared here in arms in the reign of Richard II., and from hence sent Lord Lovell, the Archbishop of York, and others on an embassy to the King. Strype describes the parish as "a pleasant healthful town" "where divers nobles in former times had their country seats."

Certainly the register shows a goodly array of noble names in support of this view; of these the following entries are a selection:

Margaret Brooke, daughter of Sir William Brooke, Lord Cobham, baptized June 8, 1564.

Elizabeth, elder daughter of Lord Zouch, married December 27, 1597.

Sir Robert Rich, afterwards second Earl of Warwick, married in 1604.

Edward de Vere, Earl of Oxford, buried in 1604.

Richard Lovelace, afterwards Lord Lovelace, married in 1608.

Lady Susannah Rowe, buried in 1610.

Sir Christopher Hatton, married in 1630.

Earl of Westmoreland, married in 1638.

Sophia, a daughter of Daniel Defoe, baptized December 24, 1701.

The wells of Hackney were at one time famous. The list given by Strype is as follows: "Pig-well; one in Church-field; Well Street; one on the Downs." He adds there was a chalybeate well a little out of Church Street, towards Dalston, and that probably Shacklewell derived its name from some well in the vicinity.

Besides this, Hackney is said to possess more open ground, more "common" land, than any other parish in the metropolis.

PERAMBULATIONS. — Hackney Brook traversed

the whole parish. It entered at Stamford Bridge, which was where the Stamford Hill Station now is. It ran on the north side of Stoke Newington Common to about St. Michael's Church. Then it turned south, keeping parallel and to the east of Shacklewell Lane and Rectory Road. It skirted the Downs, and turning on the south side, reached Dalston Lane about its junction with Amhurst Road. Dalston Bridge crossed over a broadened tongue of water. The stream apparently went underground even in Rocque's time, though it is from his map the above course is traced. He shows also a stream appearing again to the south of Humerton (Homerton), near Money Lane (Morning Lane), and running over the marshy ground near the river, apparently losing itself eventually in swamps.

The River Lea has been variously written Ley and Leigh, as well as Lea, and by the ancient Britons was called Logodunum or Logrodunum. It rises in Bedfordshire and passes through Luton, Hertford, and Ware, finally falling into the Thames at Limehouse. In 1481-82 the Abbot of Waltham was restrained from obstructing navigation and preventing the citizens of London from bringing corn, malt, etc., to London. In 1570 a new cut was made to aid navigation. Previous to this time the width of the river had been at least a mile over the low-lying ground through which it

ran, but about that date an embankment near the Thames reduced this width. Various other cuts were added in connection with the original one, but these were about 200 years later. The New River Company began borrowing water from the Lea at the end of the eighteenth century, and continued doing so until the greater part of their supply was drawn from thence. The West Ham Waterworks on the river were begun in 1747. In 1807 the East London Waterworks Company obtained an Act empowering them to take water at Old Ford, and the same year they bought the West Ham Waterworks. Various extensions of power were granted to the water companies from time to time. In 1833-34 the canal was constructed. The history of the ancient Lea includes one of Alfred's gallant repulses of the Danes, who came up in their flat-bottomed boats, and, by the King's ingenuity, were stranded waterless on the banks and reduced to sue for mercy.

STAMFORD HILL

The name Stamford has been derived from Staines or Stonesford, and as there was formerly here a ford over the brook, which could be crossed dry-shod by stepping-stones, this derivation seems not unlikely.

The road is a continuation of Stoke Newington

High Street, and forms a portion of the Great Northern Road, down which King James I. entered London when he came to be crowned King of England. The lower part is lined by good middle-class shops, and the upper, which is very wide, has fairly-sized dwelling-houses standing back in gardens on either side. A grove of trees once crowned this hill, and its remnants are seen in the fine trees which still stand in the gardens and line the road. Trams run to the Seven Sisters Road. There is a very large Congregational chapel on the east side, about half-way up; this has a conspicuous spire, and was founded by Samuel Morley in 1870. Beyond it the size of the houses decreases, and rows of newly-built little red-brick dwellings are to be seen. The same style of building covers the district to the west of Stamford Hill.

The Stamford Hill Road falls as steeply as it ascended before leaving the parish, and runs past more shops near Olinda and Ravensdale Roads. The Turnpike public-house recalls an ancient turnpike which once stood here. Ravensdale Road contains a little mission-house in connection with St. Thomas's Church, Clapton Common, and beyond this leads us right into open country—the Marshes. We feel we have got to the edge of the world—or, at any rate, to the extreme edge of London—as we stand on the broken heights

of green grass and see the sudden drop in the ground which runs away to the stealthily flowing river, and beyond it again the shimmering sheets of water belonging to one of the great water companies, edged with stiff Lombardy poplars.

It is a queer place, with irregular trees growing on common-land; in the midst of it a group of neat Board-school buildings, and a modern—a very modern—and particularly hideous row of houses running out to the edge of the sloping ground. Hackney seems to have adopted as its own the most heart-breaking of all the modern styles of domestic architecture.

By Castlewood Road we can go to Clapton Common.

Clapton Common is a long, tapering strip of land, in form like a curving tongue with the thick end northward. At this end Craven Lodge stands in its own grounds. At the corner of Castlewood Road is a very remarkable church—remarkable in architecture and also for being the only one of its creed in the metropolis. It is called the Ark of the Covenant, and is built of stone, with the angles finished in dressed stone. The roof is red-tiled, and the tower is flanked at the four corners with huge sculptured figures of the "four beasts" of Revelation. These are repeated in bronze higher up, and stand on pedestals, on which is inscribed, "God is love."

The effect of the whole is both picturesque and striking. The church was built in 1895. The windows are filled with old English glass, and were designed by Walter Crane, R.W.S. The congregation calls itself "The Church of the Son of Man."

The houses on the north and east sides of the Common are very characterless. On the west they are older and more varied. The Church of St. Thomas stands at the corner of Oldhill Street. This was originally a proprietary chapel, built about 1777, but in 1829 it was enlarged and altered. Externally it is a plain brick building with a projecting tower of three stories surmounted by a cross; this is at the east end, and is rough stuccoed. The church inside is an almost exact replica of St. Clement's at Rome; it was designed by Burgess.

Below this, with an additional strip of green in front, is a terrace of brick houses, probably about one hundred years old, with projecting wooden porches. They are in excellent preservation.

Lower down still is a substantial house with "The House of the Holy Childhood, founded 1881," in large letters on the frontage. This is a Church of England Institution, and receives from twenty to thirty children, who are brought up between the ages of three and sixteen and placed in service.

The streets behind the orphanage, between the Common and Stamford Hill are all very modern, and quite uninteresting. Cazenove Road is a long avenue planted with small trees. Oldhill Street is winding and irregular; in it are Board-schools.

Kyverdale Road is a long straight avenue; it seems as if it had been ruled. At the north end is a big tramway depot.

At the backs of the houses on the east side of the Common the ground drops sharply to the river, so that the view is of great extent. In the open ground below there are various intersecting paths, such as Spring Lane, a delightful country lane, and some fields and big trees. Springfield House, a rough stuccoed building, stands in its own grounds in a beautiful situation, looking out across the river.

From all these steep banks and this river ground various ancient coffins and also samples of rude pottery have been unearthed from time to time (see p. 18). On these heights "may have stood a Roman villa—part dwelling and part fortress or watch-tower—and the residence of the military commandant of this prominent and, therefore, important outpost of Roman London."

At the south end of Springfield Road there is a curious and interesting little hamlet lying on the water's edge. The streets are very steep, and some of them extremely narrow—mere passages,

like the "wynds" in Edinburgh. Some of the little cottage buildings are modern, and so are St. Matthew's Schools, which stand on the side of Harrington Hill; but many of the little houses are very old and quaint-looking.

Mount Pleasant Lane encircles this little hamlet, and leads us past St. Matthew's Church (date 1869), for which a district was cut out of St. Thomas's parish. The church is a big, clean, modern building of rough stone, with a high spire, and nothing to mark it out from the hundreds of other churches built within the same period. It has an avenue of evergreens and a lych-gate. Beyond this Mount Pleasant Lane takes us on to another version of itself at right angles. This is a long bare road leading down to a group of small houses and outbuildings, among which is a little brick mission-church covered with ivy. Above are several modern streets and a huge Board-school.

Going back a little to Warwick Road, we find an avenue very similar to Cazenove Road, of which, indeed, it is a continuation. This was formerly Wren's Park Road, from a tradition that Sir Christopher Wren had a country house in the vicinity.

On the other side of Upper Clapton Road there is a Congregational chapel and mission-house, as well as National schools.

St. Michael's Church stands in the angle of Fontayne and Northwold Roads. The eastern part of Lower Clapton and Homerton consists of wide areas of flat, low-lying land called Hackney Marshes. These were obtained as recreation-grounds about 1891-92, when freehold and Lammas rights were bought out. Clapton is bounded by the somewhat circuitous course of the River Lea, and Homerton includes some ground beyond the river. On the Marshes flocks of sheep graze, and a few football goals stand up like the gallows of the highwaymen's time. To the north lie the filter-beds of the East London Waterworks Company, surrounded by a line of tall poplars. The canal is narrow, and lined by a towing-path. Lock Bridge, Cow Bridge, Marsh Gate, and Wick Lane Bridges cross it in order from north to south. On the River Lea we have the old ferry, or White House—supposed to have been the resort of Dick Turpin after some of his marauding expeditions—and Temple Mills. The latter name has descended directly from the times of the Templars, who had mills here, which passed to their successors, the Knights of St. John. Prince Rupert erected a water-mill in Hackney Marsh, and there invented a metal of which guns were cast and contrived.

In 1791 a bull was baited near Temple Mills in Hackney Marsh, and 3,000 people assembled to

see it. The bull broke loose and caused a wild stampede. The Marshes have frequently been flooded, and the footpaths and bridle-ways rendered impassable by heavy rains. Near Temple Mills Bridge is the White Hart Inn, said to have been built in 1513. Near Lea Bridge is a little hamlet, consisting of a few new terraces, a row of little old red-tiled cottages, wharves, the waterworks' buildings, and a small mission-church, not unpicturesque, in rag-stone and red-tiled roof, dedicated to St. James.

The North Mill Field is composed of wide stretches of well-kept grass, with iron railings, and here and there a seat. In the north-west corner is a brick-field. Between this and South Mill Field is Bridge Road, laid out about 1750; this was formerly Mill Fields Lane, the only road from this district into Essex in Queen Elizabeth's time, and carriages could not get further than the river.

South Mill Field degenerates in the south-east end into an extremely untidy bit of waste land, where refuse and broken bricks lie in heaps. There are great bald patches here and there; and a dilapidated railing, half broken down, forms no impediment to the free passage of the ragged horses who try to gain a scanty livelihood. To the west of Chatsworth Road there is an enclosed space for a football-ground, and there are large elms

and enclosed fields. These fields are both under the London County Council's control. To the south of Millfields Road there are rows of streets, poorer to the east of Chatsworth, where small houses, exactly similar to each other, stand in lines, and dirty children play in the gutters. All Souls' Church and schools, built 1883, are in red brick.

There is a chapel in Glyn Road, a big Board-school in Chatsworth Road, and a Primitive Methodist mission-room in Blurton Road. All Saints' Church and schools are also in Blurton Road, further west. The church is a neat building of rag-stone, in the usual style, with no spire or tower. It is lined inside with red brick and a dado of glazed tiles. A row of very small windows filled with stained glass in either aisle is effective. Passing over into Homerton, we find in the south, near the Marshes, the hamlet of Hackney Wick. This name is derived from the manor which the Templars granted to De Wyke out of their own manor (see p. 3).

It is rather an unsavoury, but a very busy district, with dye, cloth, iron, starch, and other works. The Eton Mission is here established in a neat brick house, under the shadow of a fine red-brick church, well designed, lofty and light. This church is lined inside with Bath stone, and has pillars of the same material. A handsome

screen divides the chancel from the nave. There is a small chapel on the south side. The Mission-Hall and Workmen's Mission Club are close by the church. A couple of mission-rooms, Church and Congregational, and a Congregational chapel, complete the religious buildings in this quarter.

St. Augustine's Church, close by the park, is of rag-stone, with a very long roof of blue slate and no spire. It was consecrated in 1867.

Further north there is a Roman Catholic chapel with campanile tower, and schools adjacent. In the Wick Road is a police-station, and near it the Cassland rope-works. The view of this part of Homerton from the railway is indescribably dreary and depressing. Drab walls and drab chimneys rise in mournful monotony. A couple of Board-schools, a hall and a Wesleyan chapel, are variously distributed.

A row of almshouses called the Retreat, otherwise the asylum for widows of ministers, stands near. The building was erected in 1812, for the benefit of eight widows of Independent and four of Baptist ministers. They were allowed £10 per annum, and on the death of the founder, Samuel Robinson, in 1833, £3 more was added to the original allowance. The almshouses are in a long straight building with battlemented parapet of drab stucco, pointed ecclesiastical windows, and six doorways. In the centre an

inscription announces: "For the Glory of God and the Comfort of twelve widows of Dissenting Ministers this Retreat was erected and endowed by Samuel Robinson, A.D. 1812." On the grass plot before the houses is the altar-tomb of the founder, surrounded by iron rails. At the east end of Retreat Place is Ram's School for Boys, and at the west end we come across a Unitarian chapel, called the Gravel Pit Chapel, a modern building of rag-stone with angles of dressed stone. A meeting-house, built in 1715, formerly occupied this site, and this was a successor of a previous one in the gravel-pit field, hence the name. Further north there is an old Free School.

Then, turning down a diagonal path on the east, we pass by a congeries of buildings—schools, a Congregational chapel, and St. Luke's Church, a neat modern building, consecrated 1872.

Morning Lane is a very winding thoroughfare, which, from its turnings, may once have followed the course of a stream. In Rocque's map it is called Money Lane. On one side are huge colour-factories, close by the railway.

At its eastern end the High Street is called Homerton Road, and leads into a mere footpath; further west it is Marsh Hill, before attaining the dignity of High Street. The eastern part of High Street is extremely uninteresting; long

straight streets varied by Board-schools run off northwards.

On the south there is the Hackney Union Workhouse, in the usual style of such buildings. It is on the site of an old workhouse, which was an extremely picturesque building, if one may judge from water-colour sketches. It had gable ends and quaint corners. Almost opposite is the old Adam and Eve tavern, refronted.

Beyond Brooksby's Walk, we see St. Barnabas' Church schools and the Vicarage built of stone, with battlements and balustrades in a medieval style. The church was built in 1845, but has since been enlarged; the interior is effectively decorated. Near Brooksby's Walk a sarcophagus, cut out of a solid block of marble, was found; this was carved as if it had been formerly fixed in a wall with only one side showing. In the middle of the carved side was a medallion with a bust *alto relievo*. The man interred must have been six feet in height, and is judged to have been an engineer officer not of military rank. The interment was pagan Roman. In the area enclosed by Brooksby's Walk, on the east, Grove and Cross Streets, South Templar Road on the west, and Clifden Road on the north, stand the City of London Union and Fever and Smallpox Hospitals. These are surrounded by high walls, and are in the severely utilitarian style.

Returning again to the High Street, we see a big house standing back behind a neglected garden. It is of brick, with stuccoed centre, and has a deserted appearance. This was once a Dissenting college. The college was established at Hackney in the beginning of last century, and came here in 1769. An older building then stood on what was subsequently the lawn and drive in front. This was pulled down in 1823, and the present houses erected.

The whole of the High Street shows the same unlived-in, uncared-for aspect. The streets on the south, which go down under the railway, are singularly poor and uninteresting. The shops are small and dirty, the roadway narrow. There is the squalor of an unkempt middle age, but none of the attractiveness of a contented old age such as might have been expected. Yet Homerton has had some noble residents in its time. Lord Zouch, Lord Rich, Cromwell, and Thomas Sutton, founder of the Charterhouse, were among them. Ram's Chapel, on the north side of the High Street, is like a big barn; the windows are filled with thick green glass. It might be passed without any notice; only from a little distance, as from the railway, where the quaint little cupola is seen, does it look like a chapel. It was built in 1723 by Stephen Ram. It is a proprietary chapel, but the services are according to the Established use.

There are monuments to the founder and his wife on the walls. The boys' and girls' schools in connection are mentioned when we arrive at them in perambulation. At the extreme west end of the High Street is an old house, now St. John-at-Hackney Church Institute. This is conjectured to have been built of the rich materials of a much more sumptuous predecessor, which may have been inhabited by Sutton. In Homerton Row there is a Baptist chapel.

In Upper and Lower Clapton Roads there are many modern yellow-brick, two- and three-storied houses, with small shops on the ground-floor, and among them are a few of the old red-brick houses of former days. The line of the street is not regular. Some of the houses are set back behind scraps of gardens, and some are level with the pavement. Tram-lines run down the centre of the street. Beginning at the south end, we have the recreation-ground in front of the church on one side and Clapton Square on the other. In the succeeding block of houses a neat building contains the public baths. Then the road takes a sharp turn northward. Not far from this turn, on the east side, was Hackney House, built by Stamp Brooksbank about 1720. It was a large house standing in extensive grounds. It was purchased at his death by John Hopkins, the heir of Vulture Hopkins, memorably satirized by Pope:

"When Hopkins dies a thousand lights attend
The wretch who, living, saved a candle end."

Eventually the house was bought for a Calvinist Protestant Dissenting college. It was pulled down in 1800.

Continuing northward, we come to a Congregational chapel on the eastward, which is of peculiar shape, like a horseshoe, with an octagonal tower on either side. It is two-storied, and the lower story projects with a balustrade. The style of architecture suggests a synagogue.

At the end of Linscott Street is an immense stuccoed portico which bears the words "Salvation Congress Hall," so that he who runs may read. This was formerly the well-known London Orphan Asylum, since removed to Watford.

A neat little street further north, on the same side, is called Laura Place. This runs over the site of the house where lived the great philanthropist Howard. The only view of this house extant is one showing it by moonlight, as a rather long, irregular building, with bay-windows filled with latticed panes, and with several pediments or gables on the roof. It became the possession of John Howard on the death of his father, and he sold it in 1785 or thereabouts, though he seems to have had some affection for his birthplace and the home of his childhood. The house was pulled down in the first half of the nineteenth century.

A little further north, on the west side, is a Deaf and Dumb Female Asylum in what has once been a substantial private house; two old red-brick houses attract attention beyond it, before we reach an open space where there is a strip of green and a basin-like depression, once a pond. Clapton House stood at the south-east corner of this, and Mildenhall Road runs over the site.

A charming row of one-storied brick alms-houses, forming three sides of a tiny quadrangle, faces the green on the same side. These are the outward and visible sign of Bishop Ward's charity. He was Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry, and died in 1690. By his will he directed that ten poor old widows of Hackney should receive £5 yearly and a gown every second year, and should live in the "hospital house" which he had erected at Clapton. This is the identical building referred to, and here ten poor women have daily cause to bless the Bishop's name.

On the opposite side of the green is a Wesleyan chapel in the stereotyped Pointed style, and beyond it, northward, St. James's Church, curiously built from a design by Hakewell. It was begun in 1840, and opened the following year. It has an octagonal tower in the south-east angle of the transept, and the effect is that of a congeries of small buildings rather than a whole one, but originality condones for a multitude of sins.

By Kenninghall Road is a small row of older houses, and then we come to Brooke House.

Brooke House is the oldest remaining house in the parish, and recalls the time when Hackney was a country place where wealthy men built their mansions out of town in the midst of large gardens. It is supposed to be the old manor-house of Kingshold. In the grant to the Earl it is described as a "fayre house, all of brick, with a fayre hall and parlour, a large gallery, a proper chapel, and a proper library to laye books in." It is also said to have been enclosed by a broad and deep ditch. It is curious that the only date remaining is 1573, inscribed on two stones which were unearthed by the present occupant, and placed on either side of the front entrance. Queen Elizabeth, in 1596, granted the manor to Fulke Greville, Lord Brooke, hence the present name. Lord Brooke reserved the house for his own use when he sold the Manor of Kingshold. A long and detailed inventory of the furniture and interior fittings of this house about the time of James I. is in the British Museum, from this a few extracts are given below:

"In the little Parlor—Item—A story of the Rich Man and Death, a little cubberd by the chimney with lock and key, a locke to the parlor door, noe key.

* * * * *

"In the Lardery—Item—one cubberd, one hanginge shelfe, one iron hooke.

* * * * *

"In Rowland Beresforde Chamber, Item. Two faire windows of VIII lights a piece besides thereto newlie glased with two casements and barres of iron with curtayn rodds, a portall of waynscott and three cubberd dores without locks and keyes, to the portall a latche, one dore of deal borde with the floor of the same, one bolte to the dore, no locke but a ringe, a dore to the study in that chamber with a very good locke and key, in that study a clere story of two lights, with one casement and iron barres and two shelves."

There is a great deal more of the same sort, but this is enough for a sample.

The house as it stands at present is used as a private lunatic asylum, in which capacity it has been employed for some time. The front toward the street is singularly dull, in the style of the end of the eighteenth century—a brick frontage, with steps up to the door. This part is panelled inside, and, within, is not unattractive. In old prints of Brooke House the part toward the road is represented rather as a group of buildings, and among these is a long narrow archway, circular-headed, which leads through into a quadrangle. This may have stood in the position of a doorway, which is now enclosed within the building. The original plan of the house shows it to have been of the thickness of one room only, and running round a quadrangle. On the west side it was in the form of a long gallery. This gallery is now partitioned off into small rooms, but the exquisite ceiling, with its coats of arms and crests, is quite perfect. The vista of the narrow passage running along by

the rooms is highly attractive, as the ornamental carving on the panels shows up well. Many of the overmantels and fire-places are beautifully carved, and though the wood has been painted and varnished, it is good oak. The house abounds in stray corners, twisted staircases, and curious nooks, but the new part has been so adroitly fitted on to the old, that there is no jarring line. The exterior of this older part is as attractive as the interior. The northern quadrangle, or courtyard, is like a bit from an Elizabethan picture. The windows, in Tudor style, with heavy upright and cross pieces, project, and are supported on brackets. The rough plaster of the walls is decorated by a scroll of lath, in fanciful design, let in, and small gable ends are perched in corners. Above all is the line of the rich red tiles, irregular with age, and seasoned to a mellow tint. On the south side the house is yellow-washed, and the projecting chimneys picked out in vivid red. These chimneys are supposed to have been added about a hundred years after the house was built. On the west, outside the long gallery, the chimneys are of red brick; one has been rebuilt, others re-topped, aud several are wreathed in ivy. The cornice on the gable ends and running along the house is of carved wood. It is hard to believe a house 400 years old can still be standing in such perfect preservation, but there is no reason to

doubt its age. Some of the woodwork recently removed in repair was absolute powder.

A large extent of ground is attached to the house ; it contains broad green lawns bordered by neat hedges, smooth walks, and several interesting trees. One of these, an old mulberry, is claimed by its owner to be one of the original mulberries planted by the Templars. The gardens of Brooke House have long been famous. Pepys (June 25, 1666) mentions going to Hackney to see two gardens, of which one was Lord Brooke's, and tells how he saw oranges growing for the first time, one of which he must needs purloin to taste, to see if it were like other oranges. Evelyn also mentions the garden as " Lady Brooke's."

Further north than Brooke House is St. Scholastica's Retreat in Kenninghall Road ; the chapel stands in an angle. Almost opposite is Christ Church, plainly built with a bell-gable in place of a tower. The roads to the south are extremely and severely respectable.

HACKNEY DOWNS

This is a wide, flat extent of grass-land, intersected by various straight paths. It is now under the control of the London County Council.

To the east there are Downs Chapel and a

Presbyterian church at opposite ends of Queensdown Road. To the south is the Grocers' Company School, a very large and red-brick building, with small central tower surmounted by a vane. A flight of steps leads up to the principal entrance, and the arms of the Company are in a panel of the central window. The buildings are capable of accommodating 500 boys. A large gymnasium and swimming-bath are on the premises. There are many scholarships to be won, and the school is open to all boys of good character and bodily health on passing an entrance examination.

At the corner of Rodney Road is a Congregational chapel. Near it is a fire-station, and opposite the North of London Institute.

The streets between this and Amhurst Road are singularly devoid of character. The Manor Assembly-rooms and Theatre, a comparatively small building, is in Kenmure Road. The head-quarters of the Tower Hamlets Volunteers is in an opening off Pembury Grove, and in the grove is a Methodist Free Church. "St. John *at* Hackney Grammar School," as the inscription over the portico informs us, fronts the Clarence Road. This is an oblong brick building with a stuccoed portico.

Clarence Place, passing across the north of Clapton Square, was formerly Clapton Passage; it is believed to have been an old Roman by-way,

which passed along a line of elms in the playground of St. John's Grammar School.

THE PARISH CHURCH

There is an entrance to Hackney Churchyard from Mare Street; close by this the old tower still stands. The church at Hackney has a very ancient history. It was originally dedicated to St. Augustine, but, apparently on account of the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem holding land in the parish, the name was changed to that of St. John. Strype says:

"The church of Hackney hath been of late styled by the name of St. John as though it belonged to the Knights Templars of St. John of Jerusalem. . . . But in an ancient record of the Tower it is found to have been written Ecclesia parochialis S. Augustine de Hackney. And in the Cotton Library there is a volume about the Knights Templars wherein mention is made of St. Augustine's Hackney and of the lands and rents they had there."

In 1352 the precentor of St. Paul's Cathedral was allowed by patent to appropriate the church at Hackney instead of that at Stortford, in Herts, which belonged to him.

In 1477 a guild was founded in the church at Hackney, called the Guild of the Holy Trinity and the Virgin Mary. Strype also mentions a chantry founded in the church, in Edward I.'s time.

The Rectory, which is a manor, known as Grumbolds, was in the gift of the Crown until 1372,

when it was granted to the Bishops of London, who held the Manor of Lordshold. The parish of Hackney is both a rectory and a vicarage, the former being a sinecure. The chief rectors have been: Cardinal Gauselinus, 1318; Christopher Urswick, 1521; Richard Sampson, afterwards Bishop of Chichester and subsequently of Lichfield, 1534; John Spendlove, afterwards Rector of St. Andrew Undershaft, 1537. Principal vicars: Hugh Johnson, 1578; David Dolben (or Doulben), afterwards Bishop of Bangor, 1618; Gilbert Sheldon, afterwards Archbishop of Canterbury, 1633; William Spurstowe, ejected as a Puritan, 1643; Peter Newcome, 1703; John J. Watson, afterwards Archdeacon of St. Albans, 1799; Thomas Oliver Goodchild, 1839; Arthur Brook, 1877.

Among the lecturers we note the name of Strype, so indissolubly connected with the survey of Stow; and Dr. Worthington in 1670.

(The above names are in accordance with the MS. notes of a lecture given by the Rev. Prebendary Shelford, Rector of Stoke Newington.)

In 1824 the Rectory and Vicarage were united, and the three parishes of Hackney, South Hackney, and West Hackney were then formed.

The Bishops held the Manor of Grumbolds until the reign of Edward VI., when Bishop Ridley surrendered it to the King, with the Manor of

Lordshold. From that date its history has been identical with that of the Manor of Lordshold, already given above.

In the early part of the sixteenth century the church was taken down and rebuilt, and "it is probable that Sir Thomas Heron, who was master of the jewel-house to King Henry VIII., and Christopher Urswick (then Rector) were the principal benefactors to its re-erection."

It was in 1798 that the old church was finally taken down, with the exception of the tower, still standing, and the Rowe Chapel. It was of the Pointed style, with two side-aisles, galleries, and a number of monuments and tombs. The tower which remains is square, and has battlements on the summit. It is of stone, and is supported by buttresses at the four corners. It is said that in the demolition of the old church the monuments were shamefully treated, and some of the stones were broken up and used for paving purposes. However, a few, at all events, have been rescued and set up in the present church.

The Rowe Chapel was built in 1614, and stood on the south side of the chancel. It was built by Sir Henry Rowe as a kind of family vault. The most elaborate of all the monuments was that to Sir Henry Rowe, father of the founder of the chapel, who died 1611. This monument, which was carefully taken to pieces at the demolition

of the chapel, is in the possession of the Vestry. Sir Henry Rowe and his wife are represented in effigy, kneeling, facing one another, beneath a canopy supported by Corinthian columns. Above are the arms of Rowe, of the Merchant Adventurers', Mercers', and Merchant Taylors' Companies. Below are smaller effigies of the three sons and three daughters of Sir Henry, also kneeling—the sons are in stiff collars and gowns, the girls in ruffs and the dress of the period ; the whole is executed in black and white marble.

The Act of Parliament for the demolition of the old church was passed in 1780, and the new church was begun in the following year. The building was a very slow process, as funds twice ran short. The second time, in 1803, the trustees made application to Parliament to allow them to raise a further sum for the building of the tower, which had somehow been overlooked in the first estimate. The total cost was £25,000. The church is in the shape of a cross, and is built in brick, with circular stone porticoes, and has a stone tower of peculiar design. The pillars of the porticoes are of the Ionic order. The eaves of the roof are particularly wide, and the windows are circular-headed.

The principal entrance is from the north, and here there are spacious lobbies, in which the most interesting monuments are preserved. The finest

of all is the Latimer monument above referred to, which is enclosed by an iron railing. This was repaired by the late Baroness Burdett-Coutts, a descendant of Lady Latimer. An effigy of Lady Latimer, second daughter of Henry Somerset, Earl of Worcester, who married John Neville, Lord Latimer, and died 1582, is recumbent on an altar-tomb. In the four panels are shields and coats of arms; in all the lower panels inscriptions. Some of these refer to her daughters, of which a detached tablet gives the following account:

"Earle of Northumberland took the first to wife.
The next the heir of Baron Burleigh chose,
Cornwallis happ the third for term of life,
And Sir John Danvers plucked the youngest rose."

On the east wall of the same lobby is a helmet supposed to have belonged to Henry, Earl of Northumberland, who died in 1537, and was buried in the old church. In the corresponding lobby, on the east side of the entrance, are the monuments to Christopher Urswick and David Dolben, respectively Rector and Vicar of Hackney at different dates. The monuments are very interesting. In the former the brass effigy of a man lies beneath a marble canopy, richly decorated; in the other Dolben is represented in effigy, half-length.

There is here also an immense stone slab which has contained brasses of a man and woman; the

latter is now missing. This has no inscription or date of any kind. Another monument to the Bannisters contains kneeling effigies of large size, and is dated 1628 and 1633. Two equally large effigies are unnamed and detached.

Within, the church is rather disappointing. It is extremely wide for its length, and a great semi-circular gallery sweeping round emphasizes this, giving the appearance of a great meeting-room rather than a church. The east window, filled with stained glass of sepia tints, is emblematic of the first day of Creation, and was put up in 1816. The reredos is of light carved oak, with bas-relief panels. There are one or two monuments on the walls of no general interest, nor very ancient date. The organ is in the west gallery, and is a fine instrument, in part removed from the old church.

The new church is not on the site of the old one, but a little to the north-east, and around both buildings there is a spacious graveyard. What is known as the new churchyard is that surrounding the present church. This was bought and added to the older ground in 1790 for the site of the new building. Some thirty years before this the churchyard had already been enlarged, and on the piece thus added the Rectory had been built. To the north is now a pleasant recreation-ground, with flower-beds and seats; to the west the Rectory, a square house, which looks about the

same age as the church. The remainder of the churchyard is thickly studded with tombstones standing in the long grass. Many of these have been removed, and stand three deep against the walls. Public footpaths intersect the churchyard, and rows of trees add a certain picturesqueness. A fine row of large trees is on the east, and parallel with this is Church Well Path, which derived its name from a real well in the vicinity. Just over the wall is the old grammar-school, built 1829. This was erected for a proprietary grammar-school, and consecrated. At first it was very popular, but gradually declined, and was finally converted into a private dwelling-house. Sutton Place, in which it stands, recalls the founder of the Charterhouse, who was an inhabitant of Hackney.

On the other side of the churchyard, facing Mare Street, was formerly an old house, called the Church House, built in 1520. It was occupied as a rectory, for parish meetings, and as a free school at various periods of its existence. It was pulled down in 1802, and another building erected, which was used as a watch-house, engine-house, committee and ante rooms; this, altered in 1825, served as the old Town Hall before the new building was ready. There was originally a lych-gate on each side of the old church-house, which was demolished in 1802, when the side of the street was set back.

Mare Street is one of the most important streets in Hackney, on account of its old associations. It was formerly known for the upper half of its length as Church Street, and the name of Meare, or Mare, Street only began below London Lane. The name is derived from "mere" or "meer," a pond, in reference to the marshy ground hereabouts.

In Rocque's 1745 plan houses are shown running almost continuously on either side of Church Street. The upper part of Mare Street is now very uninteresting. It has a narrow roadway down which trams run. Small nondescript brick houses line the east side, and some rather better are on the west.

The Templars' House was opposite the entrance of Dalston Lane, in Church Street. It was pulled down about 1825, having, before its demolition, been let in tenements. About the middle of the eighteenth century it was a tavern, known as the Blue Posts Tavern, and afterwards as Bob's Hall, but all attempts to discover its history for 200 years previous to this date have failed. All that is known is that it was called by tradition the Templars' House, and that the Templars are known to have had a house somewhere in this vicinity. The house had three projecting bays, and was of handsome appearance. Ionic pilasters, with entablatures and broken pediments, adorned the frontage. But it obviously was not of such

early date as the Templars, and probably stood on the site of a much older building. Almost opposite to the Templars', at the corner of Dalston Lane and Church (now Mare) Street, stood another old house, built by J. Ward, a notorious person, who is thus satirized by Pope:

> "Given to the fool, the mad, the vain, the evil,
> To Ward, to Waters, Chartres and the Devil."

It is not known exactly when the house was built, though the owner was in residence in 1727. Ward stood in the pillory for forgery, and was consequently expelled from Parliament. He also suffered a long imprisonment as the result of some of his frauds. The house has long been demolished.

There formerly stood close by the old church tower a most picturesque house, irregularly built, with a red-tiled roof, and a bay running up one side, terminating in a triangular pediment. On the garden side it "consisted almost entirely of windows."

It was built in 1578 by a citizen of London, whose arms, with those of the Merchant Adventurers and Russia Company, were for long over the chimney-piece and in the window. In later times it is supposed to have been a country residence of the Elector Palatine, whose arms, together with those of King James I., Charles I.,

and the Duke of Holstein, were in the glass of the windows. There is apparently but slight ground for this conjecture, yet certainly the house was known as Bohemia Palace, which may have originated in the Elector's subsequent title. His wife Elizabeth, daughter of James I., is supposed to have stayed here, but this is pure conjecture, suggested by the name.

The house subsequently became the property of the Vyner family, who enlarged and repaired it in 1662, and it was then called Black and White House, from the contrast between the more modern and darker part with the whiteness of the old building. The overmantels and ceilings were superb. The house was pulled down, however, in 1796, and thus another of the old landmarks of Hackney disappeared. Bohemia Place stands on the site. The North London Railway here crosses the road by a bridge. There are mean buildings and small shops on either side of the road until we reach the new Town Hall, a magnificent building. The foundation-stone of this was laid in 1864 by Mr. Tyssen Amherst. The building is of stone, in the French-Italian style. It has a centre and two wings. The centre is surmounted by a balustrade and a centrepiece for a clock. There is below a handsome porch, and the basement is rusticated. Among other things the Town Hall contains the well-known

Tyssen collection of books and papers relating to Hackney, invaluable material for the genealogist and local historian. In this same room is the pillory found in the old church tower. The Town Hall stands on a plot of ground known as Hackney Grove, and from it stretches diagonally a narrow footway leading to Tower Street. Here lived Captain Woodcock, one of whose daughters married John Milton as his second wife in 1656. She only survived her marriage two years. To this street also Daniel Defoe came courting.

St. Thomas's Square is dated by a corner-stone 1772. It is a quiet square, with brick houses of no particular interest. Dr. Ainsworth, compiler of the Latin Dictionary, was for a time a resident here. From one end of the square runs Loddiges Road, recalling the name of a well-known nursery-gardener. Loddige's grounds were very extensive, and people came from all parts of London to see them. The last of the tropical plants were removed to the Crystal Palace.

Barber's Barn is supposed to have been built about 1590. Tradition says it was the oldest house in Hackney, and that the Duke of York, in the time of the Wars of the Roses, slept here. It came into lay hands at the Reformation, but in 1552 King Edward VI. consigned the estate to the hospital of St. Thomas at Southwark. The site of the house was freehold, and was purchased in

1798 by Loddige. The name in its corruption was singularly inappropriate, for the house was of very stately appearance and Elizabethan architecture. It is supposed, however, that the name "Barn" was merely a corruption of "bourne" or "boundary," as the house marked the termination of the estate. It was pulled down about the beginning of the nineteenth century. It is perhaps worth while to mention that Barber's Barn was for some time the residence of the regicide Okey.

Not far from Loddiges Road, in Lyne Grove, are the Bakers' Almshouses, built round three sides of a square, facing north. Each of the three buildings contains four houses of two stories. The Bakers' arms are carved in stone, and the quadrangle has an entrance of brick in the form of a small pointed arch. The first stone was laid in 1820 by Lucas, then Lord Mayor, as an inscription on a tablet states, and the buildings are for "decayed members of the Worshipful Company of Bakers."

Close by is a row of eight almshouses, built in 1829, and known as "Thomes" Almshouses; but, except for their situation, these have nothing to do with Hackney. To the north there is a chapel, and in Paragon Road an infant-school.

Returning to St. Thomas's Square, we see at the south-west corner a Presbyterian church, with stuccoed front, like a chapel in style. This is the

successor of an old Presbyterian Dissenting meeting-house, dating from 1600, which stood on the opposite side of the road. Philip Nye and Adoniram Byfield, two well-known Puritan divines, preached here between 1620 and 1640.

Further south is a Catholic Apostolic Church, which has a curiously hard, flat appearance, as if it had been cut out of cardboard. Behind there is an extensive recreation-ground, part of which was once a garden and part the graveyard of the Well Street Chapel. This was laid out in 1888, and is under the Hackney District Board of Works. The next object of attention in Mare Street is Lady Holles' School for Girls, founded in 1710 and housed in the present building in 1877. This is a neat red-brick edifice with stone facings. It is a middle-class school, with low fees, and several exhibitions and scholarships are attached. It is on the site of a large house, one of several which bordered Mare Street in its more fashionable days.

The Elizabeth Fry Refuge is in an old brick house on the west. Then we have a Baptist chapel, founded 1812, burnt down and rebuilt 1854.

The Triangle is a desolate place, with a large building in Board-school style, the Morley Hall, on the west side. This is used for popular entertainments, concerts, etc. A little above it, on the

same side, is the Flying Horse Tavern, a quaint little building wedged in between higher neighbours. This is a really old inn, and was one of the posting-houses from London to Newmarket in Queen Elizabeth's reign. On the east of the Triangle a Roman Catholic chapel and school stand back behind some houses. The road continues to be known as Mare Street until we reach the canal. On the east there is the "Salvation Army Citadel," in rag-stone with a rose-window. This was formerly a church, and below it is another of the Congregational chapels in which Hackney abounds.

In Rocque's map a triangular piece of water is marked in the Triangle, and another tongue-like pond on the west. It is recorded that in 1723 one of the stage-coaches going to London was flung into a great pond in Mare Street, which pond was very dangerous, especially at night-time, and was subsequently ordered to be filled in.

London Fields are marked on Rocque's map very much in the same shape as at present. They are under the control of the London County Council, and consist of wide, flat grass spaces with intersecting paths and not too numerous seats. On the east side is St. Michael's Church, built by Hakewell in 1864 on the site of a brick-field. A Primitive Methodist chapel is further south. The district between London Fields and Queen's Road

is absolutely without interest. Long rows of extremely respectable brick houses, a militia barracks, a Congregational chapel, and a Board-school, fill up the area.

North of Richmond Road the same sort of district continues. St. Philip's Church, at the corner of the above road and Parkholm Road, is in the straight, narrow, Pointed style, rather effective in churches, the long perpendicular lines carrying the eye upward to the spire. The church was built in 1841, and stands on freehold ground, the gift of a benefactor.

To the north of Graham Road is the German Hospital, an interesting building of brick occupying a very large space of ground. It was founded in 1845, and the present building erected in 1865 from the designs of Professor Donaldson and Mr. Gruning. It was enlarged and altered in 1876. Though primarily for Germans, and possessing a German staff, English cases are admitted when urgent or in case of accident. An immense fair was held in 1848 in support of this institution, and among the patronesses, of whom Queen Victoria was the chief, there were no less than six Duchesses, seven Marchionesses, fourteen Countesses, four Viscountesses, and many others.

The trustees of the German Lutheran Church, which had been situated in Trinity Lane, City, rebuilt their church here when they were turned

out for the needs of the Metropolitan District Railway. They offered the use of the church to the hospital, so that the former chapel was turned into a children's ward. The church stands just outside the gates, and is heavily decorated in stone.

Hackney Common.—This wide open space is very similar to Hackney Downs. It is a flat expanse of grass intersected by straight paths, under the control of the London County Council.

At the south-west end is a large brick building standing in its own grounds. This is the French Hospital—not a hospital for sick people, but a hospital or house of mercy for the aged. It is one of the most interesting institutions in Hackney. It is for poor French Protestants or the descendants of Huguenots residing in Great Britain. It was founded in 1708 by Monsieur de Gastigny, a French Protestant refugee in the service of the Prince of Orange; he bequeathed £1,000 for the purpose, and, other subscriptions having been added, the hospital was incorporated in 1718 under charter by King George I., the Earl of Galway being the first Governor. At first it was a temporary refuge for the oppressed of the class it was designed to aid, but now it is purely a home for the aged.

The first building was in Old Street, in the parish of St. Luke, but this site has now been let

on building leases, and the income thus obtained has more than compensated for the removal.

In 1866 the present building was erected from the designs of R. L. Roumieu, and well the designer has done his work. Externally the building is handsome, in the French style of the time of Francis I., enriched by patterns of various coloured brick and by many pinnacles and gable ends. A tower and spire rise over the main doorway, which is recessed in the form of a Gothic porch.

Within, the hall and corridors are open to the roof; the upper corridors run along handsome galleries with balustrades of varnished wood, enclosing panels of iron scroll-work. There are large sitting-rooms for both men and women, with as much light and window space as can possibly be obtained. These are on the ground floor, where there is also the refectory, where the men and women have their meals in common; a library, containing works relating to the early history of the French Protestant Church and many rare and valuable books; the directors' and court rooms, both very handsome apartments; and the chapel at the east end of the long corridor. The chapel is a well-appointed and neat little building.

The upper gallery contains dormitories, day-rooms for those unable to get up or down stairs,

bath-room, and a door communicating with a gallery in the chapel for the use of the infirm.

In the basement, which is singularly spacious and airy, are the kitchen, laundry, heating apparatus, steward's room, store-rooms, and other conveniences. The internal administration of the institution is directed by a governor, deputy-governor, treasurer, secretary, and directors, of which the scheme provides there should be not less than thirty-seven. There are also a chaplain, medical officer, steward and wife, besides trained nurses and servants. Forty women and twenty men are received, and the applicants must be at least sixty years of age. The hospital is not intended only for those of a poorer class, but for those of good family who by misfortune have become destitute. Everything is provided, even clothes if necessary, though there is no uniform of any kind.

An allowance of ninepence a head a week is made, whereby the old people can procure tea, cocoa, or coffee to suit their individual tastes.

A small portion of Victoria Park lies in Hackney. In the year 1840 an Act was passed by Parliament entitling the Commissioners of Woods and Forests to purchase "lands or hereditaments" in the parishes of "St. John at Hackney, St. Matthew, Bethnal Green, and St. Mary, Stratford-le-Bow," with the proceeds arising from the sale of York

House—otherwise Stafford House—St. James's Park, and other hereditaments mentioned in the Act; and that the land so purchased should be a royal park called Victoria Park. This was the origin of Victoria Park, now under the London County Council control, and open to the public. As such a small part of the park lies within Hackney, the above comment is considered sufficient without any reference to the sites of interest lying within its boundaries.

In Wetherell Road is a Congregational chapel, and behind it, stretching east and west, the Jews' burial-ground. The entrance to this is at the west end in Lauriston Road. Here iron railings and a gateway allow us to overlook the graveyard. The paths are unweeded, and a certain air of desolation hangs over the thickly-set upright stones with their Hebrew inscriptions. The burial-ground was set apart in 1788.

Following the road northward, we come upon the Church of St. John at Hackney. This is a large building in the Decorated style, with flying buttresses. It is cruciform in shape, with tower and spire nearly 200 feet high, and was built in 1845 of Kentish rag-stone, which has even now begun to crumble away and show signs of age. This church is the successor of a chapel-of-ease in Well Street, called the Chapel of St. John of Jerusalem, built 1810.

The churchyard is intersected by public paths. The area is about three-quarters of an acre, and was closed for interments in 1868.

In Church Crescent are Monger's Almshouses, a neat little row of buildings with three doorways. The inscription tells us the charity was founded by Henry Monger, late of Hackney, in 1669, for the benefit of six poor men. The almshouses were at first in Well Street.

A Baptist chapel is close by. The Goldsmiths and Jewellers' Asylum is in Holcroft Road. Hackney abounds in almshouses, as in Congregational chapels and open spaces. Cassland Road is so called from being built on the Cass estate. John Cass became Lord Mayor of London, and was knighted. He died in 1718, and by his will founded a charity for the inhabitants of Aldgate and Hackney in the form of two schools, elementary and advanced, the trustees to pass the scholars on from one to the other.

Well Street is one of the important streets in Hackney on account of its associations. Here stood formerly a house belonging to the priors of the Knights Hospitallers, otherwise called the Knights of St. John. This was a curious specimen of architecture, with three gables and a diamond pattern of lath and plaster on its frontage. In its later days it was cut up into tenements, and remained standing within the memory of living

men. Another house standing on the site of Shore Road, sold in 1352 to John Blanch and Nicholas Shordych, came to be called Shoreditch Place. The name of the street is derived from an ancient well, or perhaps a mineral spring, which stood hereabouts. All trace of this has now vanished.

The present Well Street is of little interest. The trams from Aldgate stop at the entrance, and return to the City. The houses near Mare Street are poor and uninteresting. The street continues a little better than it begins, having medium-sized houses of drab stucco, standing back behind neglected little bits of garden. Beyond Percy Street it is worse again—extremely squalid, and the streets opening off it are mere alleys. The workhouse has a frontage covered with rough stucco, in imitation of stone, and stretches back behind the almshouses. It was originally a Dissenting seminary. In Percy Road is a National School, and in St. Thomas's Road a hall. King Edward and Victoria Park Roads, which intersect the ward laterally, are of good character. At the corner of the latter and Handley Road are the Norris Almshouses, in memory of the Rev. H. H. Norris, of South Hackney. These are for women, and the widows of the men who die in Monger's Almshouses are given the preference, as by the Monger scheme

they are ejected on the death of their husbands. In Gore Road is Christ Church, with high-pitched roof—a simple and effective building. This is on the borders of the Park westward, and southward we come to the canal, with the dreariness that always seems to cling to the banks of a canal in a town.

Just over Cambridge Heath Bridge, before Wadeson Street, the parish boundary ends.

CAMBRIDGE HEATH

The way from London to Hackney was, during the last century, a way of terror. The newspaper-cuttings of the period show innumerable highway robberies committed, particularly about Cambridge Heath. Dick Turpin, whose favourite resort was the White Horse in Hackney Marshes, must have found this a happy hunting-ground, as numerous coaches passed from London northward and back again.

The part of the ward to the west of Mare Street is sordid and dull. The Cat and Mutton Bridge over the canal forms the extreme boundary of the parish, and what is now the Broadway used to be called Mutton Lane. On the east side of this stood a bun house, which once rivalled that of Chelsea.

Between this and Mare Street is a Board-school,

and a house, once a refuge for penitent females, now "King Edward's Certified Industrial School for Girls."

In Lamb Lane, to the north, a name which recalls former rural surroundings, is another Board-school.

On the east side of Kingsland Road the district is poor, dull, and quiet. Rows of small stuccoed houses line the straight streets, rising into rather larger ones in Middleton Road. A few chapels and schools are dotted about, and Holy Trinity Church, a big substantial brick building, stands in Woodland Street.

Across Kingsland Road everything is very open. Wide roads run at right angles or correct diagonals. There are semi-detached two-storied villas in stucco. A Roman Catholic chapel, named Our Lady and St. Joseph, is in Culford Road. This was opened as a chapel in 1850 by Cardinal Wiseman, but was not in the first instance intended for a religious building. A Board-school is not far off. An Independent chapel in the south, and St. Peter's Church in the centre, are the principal buildings. St. Peter's was built about 1841, and is a handsome church, with octagonal turrets and pinnacles at each angle and at the four corners of the tower. It is in the Pointed style, and the material used is light-coloured brick.

De Beauvoir Square is built on the site of one

of the great mansions for which Hackney was famous in bygone days. The mansion was built about 1540, and originally called Baumes or Balmes, after its founders, two brothers, who were Spanish merchants. It seems to have retained this name, even when it had passed from its original owners. It was a curiously shaped house, with a very long, sloping, red-tiled roof, in which were two rows of dormer-windows. Pilasters with ornamental capitals adorned the frontage, and the house is considered to have been one of the earliest specimens of Italian architecture in England. Within there were very magnificent carved ceilings. The grounds were of great extent, and laid out with geometrical precision. This was about 1580, when an old print shows the house standing in open country.

Robinson, the historian of Hackney, mentions that there was some doubt as to whether it was in Hackney or Shoreditch, and says that in a survey of 1666 the boundary of Shoreditch was fixed at the top of Balmes Walk, a road "leading from Hoxton to Balmes House between an avenue of stately elms standing on either side." There are, however, entries of the end of the sixteenth century in Shoreditch Register which show it must have been at some time considered to fall within that parish.

He says there was a gateway of brick with date

1623, and that this was destroyed in 1794. He adds that only sixty years before he wrote (1842) the only entrance to the house was over a drawbridge, because of the moat. In 1680 the estate, which contained about 130 acres, came into the possession of Richard Beauvoir by purchase. Hence the name, which the present owner of the estate still retains.

Close by the spot where Dalston Junction Station now is was the Chapel of St. Bartholomew, the ancient leper chapel. It is supposed to have been built about the time of the Reformation, and is described as having been a small stone structure about 27 feet by 18 feet, and 20 feet in exterior height. As the roads around were raised, its floor remained below their level. A curious fact about the chapel was that it was in two parishes, the chancel being in Hackney, the body of the building in Islington. It was attached to the House of Lepers called "Le Lokes," a word of doubtful derivation. This was established in connexion with St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and in the middle of the eighteenth century was burnt down. It was rebuilt, but very shortly after the patients were removed and the site let for building. It is described as having been a substantial edifice of brick, with the arms of St. Bartholomew's Hospital over the door. The chapel, which had escaped the fire, remained in the gift of St.

Bartholomew's, and was pulled down about fifty years ago. Dalston Junction is still known by tram and omnibus conductors as Kingsland Gate. Dalston is spoken of in the *Ambulator* of 1774 as a small but pleasant village near Hackney. The old manor-house of Dalston, near Dalston Lane, is now used as a refuge for penitent females, and was instituted in 1805.

It is difficult to realize that in the time of Charles I. Kingsland Road was impassable by reason of its miry foulness, so that coaches often stuck fast; and when Charles I. returned from Scotland, he and the royal party had to turn aside into the grounds of Balmes House, where a way had been especially prepared for them. Pepys mentions in his journal that as a boy he boarded at Kingsland and shot with bow and arrows in the adjacent fields. The lamps by the road from Shoreditch to Hackney were first lighted January 14, 1756. The buildings bordering the road at present are very dull. The most noticeable is the Metropolitan Free Hospital, built in the traditional workhouse style.

Passing on to Dalston Lane, and across it, we come to St. Bartholomew's Church, a very lofty church of brick. The district to the north, by Sandringham Road, has an air of severe respectability. St. Mark's Church has a curious tower, with projecting griffins and a clock-face on one

side and an aneroid on the other, of equal size. It was built in 1864. Within, it has a rich display of stained glass, including some oddly shaped windows in the roof of the nave. It is of great size and width, and is said to cover the largest area of any London church.

In Norfolk Road there is a German Orphanage, a pretty brick building of no great size, covered by creepers. An inscription on a stone states the foundation was laid by Baroness Schröder in 1883, and another inscription over the doorway indicates that the orphanage is for German children in London.

Shacklewell Lane curves like a real lane. On the north side, the streets opening from it are of the poorest and most wretched description. On the south-east they are a trifle better. A little strip of green, with seats, is enclosed by the lane about half-way up.

At Shacklewell there was an ancient mansion, in which Cecilia, daughter of Sir Thomas More, and wife of Giles Heron, once resided. This was afterwards held by the Rowe family, who sold it to Francis Tyssen about 1600, and was consequently known as the Manor House. It was pulled down in the beginning of the eighteenth century.

Across Arcola Street is a neat terrace of model dwellings, the beginning of a better era. At the

corner of these dwellings and the Stoke Newington Road is a very large police-station, recently built, and not far off a large Board-school. In Wellington Road—a long, neat road, with an avenue of small trees on either side—there is a chapel.

Amhurst Road, named in honour of the holder of the manor, is a wide, curving street of respectable houses. At the upper end is West Hackney Church. This faces Stoke Newington Road, standing a little back, with a massive stone portico of the Doric order. A cupola rises above the portico, and at the back of the church is a large piece of ground, the ancient graveyard. Within, the church has wide galleries on three sides, and no chancel to speak of. It is airy and well lit, with flat roof and a curious bit of stained glass at the east end, which is a copy of the altar-piece at Magdalen College, Oxford. The church was designed by Sir Robert Smirke, and built in 1824. The cost was borne by the Commissioners of New Churches and Chapels.

The graveyard running along the south side of Church Road is now a public garden, with grass plots and flower-beds, gravel walks and seats. The tombstones are, for the greater part, ranged against the walls, but one or two remain upright, and others, horizontal slabs, are undisturbed in the short grass. It is a well-kept, neat, quiet

garden. Across the road are the West Hackney National Schools, erected in 1837.

The streets hereabouts are of much better quality than those already passed through. Long vistas of tidy suburban villa houses exactly alike are seen everywhere. At the corner of Rectory Road is a very large Congregational chapel with a spire. In Benthall Road there is a Board-school.

About *Stoke Newington Common*, farther northward, there is nothing much to say. It is now open to the public, under the control of the London County Council, and forms one of the nineteen public spaces of which Hackney boasts.

STOKE NEWINGTON

Derivation.—This name is supposed to be derived from Stoke = a clearing, and Newington = New Town. Thus it means the new town in the wood. In Domesday Book it is written Newtowne, but the Stoke was prefixed as early as the fifteenth century. Newcourt says it was sometimes called Neweton Canicorum.

Boundaries.—It is bounded on the east by Hackney; south by part of Islington; west by Hornsey; and north by Tottenham. It lies just within the limits of the London County Council jurisdiction. In shape the parish is a long strip of ground from north to south, with a great piece like a bite out of its west side.

Two green patches, Clissold Park and Abney Park Cemetery, lie across the middle, and in the north two great reservoirs of the New River Company are strung together like beads on a necklet, while the New River itself meanders through parts of the parish.

In Rocque's map the only houses cluster about Church Street and High Street, while the remainder is grass-land. Stamford Bridge, Lordship Lane, New Cutt, Dalston, and Newington Bridge are the only recorded names, Dalston being marked in Stoke Newington, as well as a second time in Hackney. This is probably a mistake.

HISTORY.—The history of the parish is the history of the manor, with which it is coextensive. In 940 Athelstane gave this manor to St. Paul's Cathedral. It lies on ground which was, in former times, part of the great forest of Middlesex, and though this was disafforested by royal order in 1218, so late as 1649 seventy-seven acres of the manor of Stoke Newington are described as being wooded. Up to the sixteenth century the Prebendaries of St. Paul's held the manor, and in the middle of that century, 1550, the then Prebendary, Penny, leased the manor to William Patten for £19 per annum. William Patten was Receiver-General of Queen Elizabeth's revenues and "teller of the receipt" of the Exchequer—an important person. He passed on his lease to John Dudley, who was of the family of the Earls of Warwick. Dudley died in 1580, leaving his wife and daughter to succeed him. The widow married again within two years, and her second husband was Thomas Sutton, steward to the Earl of Warwick, who afterwards founded the Charter-

house in its present constitution. In 1602 Mrs. Sutton died, and her husband removed to Hackney. Dudley's daughter, Ann, married Francis Popham, son of Sir John Popham. This Francis Popham became a vehement opponent of King Charles, and was specially exempted from the general pardon. He was succeeded by his son, Colonel Alexander Popham, an officer in the Parliamentary Army, who purchased the fee simple of the manor when the church lands were sold in 1649. He managed to ingratiate himself with the King at the Restoration, and though the church recovered its rights, he remained lessee and obtained a new lease of the manor. The Popham family continued in possession until the end of the century, when they parted with the lease to John Gunston, a linen draper of the City, whose son Thomas built a new manor house on part of the ground now occupied by the cemetery (see p. 84). Thomas Gunston only enjoyed his property for a short time, and his possessions went, at his death, to his sister Mary, wife of Sir Thomas Abney, Lord Mayor of London. Lady Abney remained at her place in Theobalds, however, until ten years after her husband's death, which occurred in 1723-24. Then she came to the Manor House, and in 1734 caused a survey to be made of her estate in the parish, from which it appears it was largely composed of meadow- and pasture-land. Isaac Watts,

who was a resident in her house, came with her to Stoke Newington. Lady Abney was succeeded by her daughter Elizabeth, who died, unmarried, in 1782. During the time of these various successions the lease had been several times renewed. It was finally sold for £13,000 to the Eade family, who held it until the last lease fell in, and the property came again into the possession of the Dean and Chapter of St. Paul's.

THE PARISH CHURCH

The old and the new churches of St. Mary's face one another across Church Street, the one humble and picturesque, the other solid and lofty.

The old church is of very ancient foundation. It was "new builded" by William Patten in 1563, but how long it had stood on this spot anterior to that date is not certainly known. Prior to Patten's rebuilding, it is said to have been a small Gothic edifice of hewn stone, flint, and pebbles. Patten's church was considerably smaller than the present one, consisting probably only of the nave and that southern part known as Queen Elizabeth's Chapel. In 1702 the south wall was damaged by a terrific storm, and had to be repaired. In 1716 the church was enlarged, and in 1723 the chancel was extended. In 1806 the walls were covered with cement to resemble stone.

Comparatively recent additions carried the building out further from south to north, making it of ungainly proportions, bulging out to the north, and throwing the chancel out of the centre. Externally the disproportion is not so noticeable as in the interior, the effect of increased breadth being lessened by the false gable-ends. The church as it was in 1806, however, differed considerably from the present fabric; it had a square, embattled tower and cupola of wood. In 1826 Barry (afterwards Sir Charles) was employed in a thorough restoration, in which he endeavoured to restore the building, in the true sense of the word, to what it had originally been.

In the interior the small chapel, still known as Queen Elizabeth's, is on the south side, and is separated from the nave by octagonal stone pillars and arches of the Tudor style. This little chapel is very low. The east window of the nave is filled in with stained-glass, made up of fragments and reset in the latest restoration. "F. R. C. S.," in his "Memorials of Old Hackney and Stoke Newington," gives an account of the previous windows. Originally the arms of Queen Elizabeth were in the centre, and four compartments representing the Virgin Mary, the Preaching of John the Baptist, the Purification, and the Giving of Alms, around. In the north window were the Drapers' arms, and in the south those of the City of London.

The nave is separated from the extended remainder of the church by pillars similar in construction and style to those of Queen Elizabeth's Chapel, but much loftier, and obviously of far later date. In the northern extension there are large galleries supported by iron girder pillars.

There are a few monuments on the walls, and one of them is equal to any in London for beauty and interest. This is the Dudley monument, and stands on the south side of the chancel. Beneath a canopy, kneeling, facing one another, according to the fashion of the times, are John Dudley, Lord of the Manor, who died 1580, and his wife, who married for her second husband Thomas Sutton, and died in 1602. The husband is in armour, with his helmet behind him, and the wife in the dress of the period, with their only child, a daughter, behind her. Beneath is a long Latin inscription in verse, for which, it appears, the writer received 10s. The tomb was restored by old students of the Charterhouse, and a record of this is on Mrs. Sutton's side of the monument. The only other monument of interest is that of Dr. Gaskin, a former rector, which is against the north wall of the church, and, though cracked in pieces, has been fitted together. The story is that Gaskin, afraid that his bones might be disturbed, gave orders that he should be buried in his church of St. Gabriel, Fenchurch Street. As it happened,

however, this church was demolished, and Mr. Jackson, Rector of St. Mary's, Stoke Newington, had the bones of his predecessor removed to Stoke Newington for preservation.

Among the dead buried in the church or in its precincts "Giltspur" gives the following list: John Dudley, Mrs. Sutton, Sir Francis Popham, Lady Abney, Elizabeth Abney, James Brown (the celebrated traveller), Mrs. Barbauld, Dr. Aikin, Arthur Aikin, and a long list of rectors of the parish.

Some of the Pophams were buried in a vault near the principal entrance, and adjacent is a curious small chamber, from which a flight of steps descends to the heating apparatus. This is supposed to have been the parish schoolroom!

Extracts from the old registers of the church have been printed, and date back to 1559. They prove conclusively that the parish was a place of fashionable residence in days gone by.

One entry has caused much controversy; this is "Bridget Fleetwood, buried September the 5th, 1681." This has been supposed by many—Lysons among the number—to have referred to the daughter of Oliver Cromwell, who married General Fleetwood, but it has been absolutely proved that Cromwell's daughter of that name died at least nineteen years previously, and was buried in Blackfriars. She probably was never in Stoke Newington in her life.

Externally the church is picturesque enough. The prettiest view is, perhaps, that from Clissold Park at the back, where the two churches are seen in the same line of vision, and the steeple of the new building soaring above the old one emphasizes its hoary antiquity. The red-tiled roof of the little old church covers rough stuccoed walls; in the slope of the northern roof two quaint dormer-windows peep out between the trees, and the tombs in the small churchyard add to what is an almost ideal picture of an old parish church. The windows are in the Tudor style, and so is the principal doorway on the south side. Above this there is the date of foundation, 1563, and a motto, *Ab alto*, the meaning of which has been much disputed. Some have concluded it referred to a sundial, now vanished; others that it was a reminder of the verse, "I will look up unto the hills, from whence cometh my help." Over the other door, in the same wall, there is a small shield with the arms of the Patten family, the initials of the founder, "W. P.," and his motto, *Prospice*.

The churchyard around is only about three-quarters of an acre, and is intersected by a public footpath. Mrs. Barbauld lies here, beneath a plain altar-tomb close by the railings on the south side. Mrs. Stephens, sister of Wilberforce, lies in the churchyard also, and Wilberforce himself expressed a wish to be buried here. Wombwell, founder of

the menagerie—perhaps better known than others who have more claim to recognition—lies here also.

The new church is in the French Decorated style. It was designed by Sir G. G. Scott, and consecrated in 1858; the spire, which for a time had remained incomplete, was finished by the architect's son in 1890. This spire and tower attain to a height of nearly 250 feet.

The church stands near the site of the old Rectory, which was a most picturesque building of rusticated woodwork, with gable ends and an overhanging story. Prints of it are extant. It was originally surrounded by a moat. The rectors are traced back to the fourteenth century, and include many learned divines and men of eminence.

The Manor House stood close by the old church, on the spot now occupied by the houses in Church Row. The original date does not seem to be known, but the building was probably contemporary with William Patten's rebuilding of the church. There was an old brick tower standing in 1763, which had perhaps been part of the offices, or of a pleasure-house in connection with the manor. This tower is shown, in most of the old views of the church, near the present Clissold House. It is said that Elizabeth, when Princess, was concealed here; if so, such concealment must have taken place before 1558—that is

to say, in Patten's time, for Dudley did not come into possession until 1571. But this story seems in the last degree improbable, and the Queen's visits to the place in later times most likely gave rise to the tradition. She certainly visited the Dudleys here when she was Queen, and on one occasion, "taking a jewel of great value from her hair, presented it to their daughter, Mistress Ann Dudley" (Nichols' *Topog. Brit.*). Another story has it that Dudley's widow let the house to her husband's great kinsman, the Earl of Leicester, and that he resided here until she returned to the house after her second marriage. If so, it is very probable that the Queen visited Leicester here, and thus strengthened the connection of her name with the house. The walk behind, on the east of Clissold Park, where the great elms grow, still bears the title, "Queen Elizabeth's Walk"; thus imagination pictures a secluded alley in the garden where, free for a time from espionage and attendants, the Queen talked with Leicester as woman to man. In 1695 this interesting house was demolished, and a little later the row of houses at present standing was erected. Before its demolition it was in a dilapidated condition, and had been let in tenements. The later manorial residence, Abney House, is spoken of in connection with the cemetery, on which site it stood.

The gateway of the old Manor House remained until 1892. It looked on to Edward's Lane; it was of Tudor pattern, and of great solidity.

Church Street is the nucleus of Stoke Newington. It can boast the first and second Manor Houses, the old and new churches, and almost all there is of history in the parish. We have already commented on the churches at its western limit and the old Manor House, so, turning eastward, we will follow it to the High Street. Adjoining the churchyard, on the north side, we see the old houses of Church Row. These are most picturesque. One is embedded in wistaria; over others jasmine and ampelopsis, fig and vine, run riot; while the wrinkled glowing bricks peep through in places. Quaint doorways, each one of different pattern, add to the effect, and the houses stand a little back from the road behind small gardens.

They are the houses which were built at the end of the seventeenth century and the beginning of the eighteenth, on the demolition of the old Manor House. One or two of them bear dates 1706 and 1709. It is said the old materials were partly used in their construction. One of the houses—that nearest the church—was pulled down in 1841, and its site added to the churchyard; also a cottage, on the site of which the mortuary stands. There was also a summer-house, standing

in 1820, in the garden at the back of one of the houses, which bore the initials E. A. G.—those of Edward and Gertrude Allanson, who lived in one of these houses. To No. 168, in 1750, Howard, the philanthropist, came as the lodger of a widow lady, whom, though she was twenty-three years his senior, he afterwards married. In No. 170 the elder d'Israeli, author of *Curiosities of Literature*, lived, and his son, the Earl of Beaconsfield, was here as a boy.

The red-brick building of the Free Library is on the site of four of the houses of Church Row. The public library does credit to the parish, which was the first in London to adopt the Act in 1890. The reference and news rooms and lending department are all on the ground-floor, separated only by glass and wooden screens, so as to be effectively under central control. Above 200 prints and illustrations of the neighbourhood, presented by Mr. Sage, hang from the walls of the reference-room.

With one intervening shop we come to Edward's Lane, where the old manor gateway stood. The lane is called after a merchant taylor, Job Edwards, who had something to do with the building of Church Row. The houses on the west side of the lane are of considerable age, but of a poor class.

At the east corner of Edward's Lane stood a

house called the Manor House, because the courts leet and baron were held in it after the demolition of the old Manor House. In 1752 it was bought by subscription as a residence for the Dissenting minister, and while the Rev. J. Bransby occupied it in that official capacity, he had as a pupil for some years the capricious Edgar Allan Poe, then about nine years of age.

Barn Street recalls in its name the outbuildings and farm of the manor; it is now composed of small modern houses.

In the next block there is the house used as vestry offices, which, if not so old as those already mentioned, is certainly not modern. A long low brick house adjoining is probably as old as any in the parish. One door leads to "Ye olde Toye Shop," a dingy little shop below the level of the street. Then, in the bifurcation of Lordship Lane stands an ancient public-house, the Old Red Lion, formerly called the Green Dragon. It is a delightful old inn, with its stuccoed walls and irregular windows, its partly tiled roof, and absence of any modernity save the very rampant lion on its street-lamp. It was an important place in old times, and the branch off Lordship Lane to the east was known by its name. In the fork behind stood cage, watch-house, stocks, and whipping-post, also the village pound, and, most

important of all, the engine-house for protection against fire, erected in 1806.

Park Street at the first glance might be supposed to be wholly composed of the little villa houses which the modern builder strings up by the row. A second glance reveals an interesting group of buildings on the west. Here we have the Quakers' chapel and school, and the Quaker almshouses. The latter, a long row of dwellings in white brick, with large windows, is separated from the road by a green quadrangle and iron railings. The central building is higher, with a large bow-window, and the stone parapet or coping, which bears the inscription, is covered by the leaves of a brilliant creeper.

The Meeting-house is a house in verity, with an open portico, dull and uninteresting. Adjoining it is a cemetery of about three-quarters of an acre, bought in 1827 and enlarged in 1849. This is not open to the public, though it is still in use.

Continuing in Church Street, we come to the gates of Abney Park, noted below. Then, as far as High Street, we have various shops in buildings of the most absolute ugliness, corresponding with those on the south side, also a timber-yard, and one or two houses.

Fleetwood Street, a small cul-de-sac with the churchyard cedar rising above the wall at the end, marks the site of Fleetwood House. This house

was almost as important a building as the Manor House. Its original style was Jacobean. In *Notes and Queries* (1872) Mr. E. J. Sage gave a minute description of this house. He says:

"There are considerable remains of Elizabethan or early Jacobean panelling in and about the kitchen and passages on the eastern part of the house, which appears to be the oldest. There is a fine massive Jacobean staircase (of solid oak painted stone colour) leading from the first floor to the second story and attics. There is also a very elegant staircase leading from the hall to the first floor. This dates from early in the last century, and probably takes the place of one of much earlier date. Opening upon this latter staircase is the room from the ceiling of which the coat of arms of the Hartopps has been recently removed. When I first visited the room, I omitted to notice (and no one else seems to have noticed) that the four corners of the ceiling are also ornamented with heraldic heroics. They are as follows: (1) The arms of Ulster; (2) a ducal coronet—a part only of the crest of the Hartopps; (3) a coat which I recognized as the arms of Coke of Melbourne—gules, three crescents and a canton or; (4) a sun in splendour or, which is the crest of the Cokes. This discovery identifies at least the date of the ceiling, as Sir Edward Hartopp, who died in March, 1657(8), married Mary, daughter of Sir John Coke, of Melbourne."

The south front of this house was Palladianized in the middle of the eighteenth century. It was a large building of some sixty rooms, with an extensive garden attached. In 1872 it was pulled down. It was built or remodelled by Sir Edward Hartopp, who was succeeded by his son and grandson. Sir Edward Hartopp's widow, Dame Mary, married for her second husband Fleetwood, the great parliamentary general. She was his

third wife, and one of her predecessors had been Bridget, daughter of Oliver Cromwell and widow of Ireton. There was much intermarriage between the families at a later date. The Bridget Fleetwood in the Stoke Newington church register may well have been the second of that name. After marrying Dame Mary, Fleetwood took up his residence in the house which has since been known by his name. Here he lived amicably with his stepson, Sir John Hartopp. Isaac Watts, the hymn-writer, came to Stoke Newington as tutor to Sir John Hartopp's children. He had been educated at the Nonconformist academy in the parish, and his connection with Stoke Newington was lifelong (see p. 59).

At the end of Church Street, the corner of High Street, stands the Three Crowns, a large public-house which inherits a far-back tradition. It was originally the Cock and Harp, but was renamed in compliment to James I. when the royal procession came along the great high road by Stamford Hill, and perhaps halted at this very spot.

The courts leet and baron were held here later, and in 1798, when a subscription was opened to help the King in protecting England against our "old and inveterate enemy, France," a meeting was held at this hostelry, where Benjamin Disraeli, De Medina, and Rivaz sat to consider the matter, and subscribed liberally.

The houses adjoining the Three Crowns are known as Stock's Charity. Four of these were left by one Thomas Stock to the parish, the income to be applied to the ordinary uses of education, apprenticeship, and the poor, and to the more unique use of bringing New River water down Church Street. The fifth house, which he bequeathed to a minister, was afterwards bought by the parish and added to the other four. This bequest was to come into force on the death of the testator's wife and son-in-law, but the widow resigned the property during her lifetime in 1682, and as the son-in-law was dead, the vestry received the trust then. The houses were rebuilt during the nineteenth century.

The south side of Church Street can hold its own in rivalry with the north. Lansell and Kersley Streets were built on ground which was once market-gardens. Adjoining the latter is Abney Park Congregational Chapel, exactly facing the gates of old Abney House. This building of brick, with immense portico and pediment, is of little or no interest, but as it is the successor of the old Dissenting chapel, and may be confused with it, a digression must be made here. The present chapel was built in 1838, but altered in 1862, and enlarged in 1877. The first meeting-house existed in the middle of the seventeenth century, and is supposed to have been pulled

down to make way for the stables of Abney House. It was rebuilt in 1700 on the west side of Lordship Road, in Church Street. The old chapel was used at its latter end for assembly or meeting rooms.

On the west side of the present chapel we have a modern building with iron balconies, and then a long row of old houses with quaint doorways, but these are in a rather dilapidated state. They are called the High Houses. Of one of them a ghost story is told. Defoe Road is so named in memory of one of the greatest of the parish residents. Daniel Defoe was educated at a school on Stoke Newington Green, kept by a Mr. Morton. He was here between the ages of twelve and sixteen, and had as fellow-scholar Wesley, the father of Charles and John, who remembered Bunyan preaching on Newington Green. Another scholar, whose name was Crusoe, has been raised to fame by the adoption of his name for Defoe's celebrated hero. In later life Defoe lived in a house on the site of which this street is built. He came here on his release from prison. His house was still standing in 1845. It was on the south side of Church Street, a little to the east of Lordship Lane or Road, and had about four acres of ground attached, bounded on the west by a narrow footway, once called Cutthroat Lane.

In 1875 the house was destroyed to make way

for the street. Cutthroat Lane is now absorbed in Oldfield Road, and the old wall on the west is the remnant of Defoe's garden wall. A near neighbour was Mrs. Barbauld, who lived on the other side of the above-mentioned lane, a little further westward, and died here in 1825. The house still stands, and is occupied by a bookseller. Her brother, Dr. Aikin, occupied the house now called St. Mary's Mission-house, on the north side of the street, almost facing Marton Street. Thomas Day, author of *Sandford and Merton*, lived in a house close by, and was educated at Stoke Newington.

The Falcon public-house is on the site of another old parish tavern, mentioned once indirectly in the records of 1784. Behind it is a very old house, whose gables can be seen from the top of a passing omnibus. This is in the last stage of decrepit old age; it is said to be the oldest house in the parish, and carries a tradition of having been the residence of Sir Walter Raleigh, which has no grain of fact in support of it. From here to the corner of Albion Road there is little which calls for remark. The shops mostly project from the ground-floors of the houses, and occupy what once were small gardens. Some of the buildings are of considerable age, others modern or re-faced. At the corner of Albion Road is another inn with an old name, the Rose and Crown, rebuilt in 1815.

The houses in Church Street formerly continued in an unbroken line at this point, but in 1830 one and part of another were pulled down to make a new road to Newington Green. Beyond Albion Road is another most fascinating old brick house, with centre and two projecting wings; the latter are older than the centre, which has been rebuilt, and has its windows constructed in a later style. The new church and rectory have been mentioned. Beyond them the houses facing Clissold Park are more or less old. The Grange is a lovable old brick mansion, and near this stands the house in which Samuel Sharp, Egyptologist, was brought up by his admirable sister. Beyond this to the Green Lane we have only small shops.

Clissold Park was acquired as a public park for the people in 1889. It is well laid out with trees and flower-beds, neat paths, and has a band-stand. There are also two artificial ponds, but its area is chiefly made up of the wide open grass spaces dear to the heart of the Londoner.

Clissold House was built about the end of the eighteenth century by Mr. Hoare, of the banking family, who did not long retain it. It was held by Thomas Gudgeon later, and subsequently passed into the hands of Mr. Crawshay, whose chief claim to notice is that he forbade his daughter to marry Mr. Clissold, a curate of the adjacent parish church. At his death the marriage took place,

and the name Clissold has been perpetuated. The house is a brick building somewhat in the Palladian style, standing not far from the church.

Having thus cut through the heart of the parish, there are two great sections to be considered, that lying to the north, and that to the south.

THE NORTHERN PART

HERE we have well-laid-out roads and neat villa residences, which are larger and better as we go northward. Lordship Lane (now Road), which runs from north to south, is one of the most important thoroughfares, and one of the oldest. It is a long shady road passing between the two great reservoirs of the New River Company. The banks of these are covered with shrubs, and an old engine-house, with its water-tower, bearing an inscription recording it was erected in 1830-33, stands among the shrubs. By a narrow bridge the road crosses the river, and from here both the great sheets of water can be seen, with stately swans swimming about on them. The modern engine-house with its mighty tower, is at the south-west end of the westerly lake, and the waterworks behind it are outside the parish boundary.

At the corner of Woodberry Down and Seven Sisters Road is the little new red-brick church of St. Olave. Seven Sisters takes its name from

seven trees, which were known as the Seven Sisters, and stood at the Tottenham end.

Green Lane does not much merit its title; it is a long, pleasant suburban road down which trams run. There are fairly large houses, and the road runs past the park for part of its course, which gives it an open aspect. To sum up briefly the buildings in the northern portion of the parish, we will mention that in Manor Road there is a Presbyterian chapel, and a house for the aged poor, conducted by the Little Sisters of the Poor. This is a very large brick building, with statue of the Virgin and Child in a niche over the central entrance, and a central cupola. In Bouverie Road there is a Baptist chapel and a small temporary iron church. In Bethune Road the Church of St. Andrew's stands; it is a nicely built modern edifice with high-pitched roof.

THE SOUTHERN PART

THERE is very little to recount of the southern portion of the parish, except long dingy streets of a poorer class of houses than those on the north. In Oldfield Road is a big Board-school, with fine old trees in the yard. St. Faith's Church, in Londesborough Road, is solid and plain outside, and within it is peculiar: an arcade runs down either side, and on the arches are mural paintings,

of the conventional type, with the names of saints in the spandrils. Above, the large, very lofty, windows are enclosed in a light arcade, and are perfectly simple, with no tracery. The east end is in the form of an apse.

To the west of Albion Road the streets are new, the north-east side of Park Lane and Carysfort Road having been laid out comparatively recently in long curving lines of symmetrical little red-brick houses. These are all built on one estate, called the Willows, the park and grounds of a house of that name. The descendant of this house is Willow Bank, a large brick building at the northern corner of Carysfort Road, overlooking Clissold Park. The New River runs through a corner of its grounds. The older house was visited by Mrs. Beecher Stowe, and is mentioned by her.

The streets from this point, running between Green and Park Lanes, are very monotonous. All Saints' Church is in the severe first Pointed style, and has no spire. At the open space, where several roads meet in the turn of Albion Road, there is a triangular strip of greenery, and a red-brick chapel of the Congregationalists, called the Raleigh Memorial Chapel. Here are also a cluster of shops.

On the north side of *Stoke Newington Green*, at the corner of Albion Road, still stands a charm-

ing old red-brick mansion with large garden behind; another old house vanished before the building of the London and Provincial Bank at the opposite corner. Next-door is the stuccoed frontage of the chapel, erected in 1708, and enlarged in 1860. Among its ministers it can reckon the Rev. Mr. Barbauld and other men of learning. The chapel was first Presbyterian, but after a time became Unitarian. Samuel Rogers was a trustee for sixty-five years during the latter phase, and there is a tablet to his memory within the building. Lewis, in his *History of Islington* (1842), speaks of two old houses more important than any now standing. One, in the north-east corner, was of wood and plaster, built in the form of a quadrangle, and was still in existence at the beginning of the nineteenth century. During the latter part of its existence it was changed into tenements, and called Bishop's Place. Mildmay House, on the south side of the Green, was another large important mansion, built by Alderman Halliday in the reign of James I.

A letter from Algernon Percy, Earl of Northumberland, repudiating any tie between himself and Anne Boleyn before her marriage, is dated from Newington Green, and may probably have been written in the house called later Bishop's Place.

It was in 1745 that the centre of the Green

was first railed in; before that time it was left in a wild, uncared-for condition.

There are many literary associations with this place, besides the school attended by Defoe and Day; Samuel Rogers, the poet, was a resident, and Mary Wolstonecraft Godwin opened a day-school here.

The detached portion of the parish, roughly bounded by Boleyn, Cowper, Brighton, and Stoke Newington Roads, is newly built upon, and is known as the Palatine Estate.

This name has a somewhat curious origin. A piece of land, called the Gravel Pit Feld, containing six acres, was presented to the parish, and in 1709 four houses were erected on it for the reception of the poor Palatines who had fled from Germany. The original donor's name is not given, but the gift was made previous to the first year of Edward VI. It still belongs to the church, to be used for "repairs or extremity," and part of it was recently mortgaged to provide funds for the new church. South Hornsey public elementary schools stand on this land.

St. Matthias's is a high brick church with a bell-gable instead of a spire.

A Welsh chapel in Barrett Road, with four pinnacles, is rather neat. It was built in 1884. A large theatre, to be called the Alexandra, faces Stoke Newington Road.

Stoke Newington Road is supposed to be the ancient Ermin Street of the Romans. This road led from Newhaven in Sussex through Surrey to London, and thence through Middlesex to Castor, then to Venta Icenorum, a little south of Norwich. The southern detached portion, which takes in the western side only, is of small projecting shops and buildings, irregular without being interesting.

This great high road is in this part of its course known as High Street; three houses stand out conspicuously. These three form a group together, and suggest having been originally one mansion, with a projecting centre and retreating wings, but they are really quite separate and independent buildings. That on the north is the Training Home of the London Female Guardian Society. It is of red brick, is the least interesting, and looks the most modern of the three, but it has an additional building with red-tiled roof, which appears really old.

The central portion, with an effective stuccoed porch, is now a dispensary, and is in good repair.

The southern is the Invalid Asylum, which, from having something of a history attached to it, needs more detailed description.

The Invalid Asylum is a charming old house standing back from the street, with a flight of steps leading up to its front-door. It is spoilt by

the ugly wooden board which hangs over its gateway, announcing—

"Invalid Asylum. For the Recovery of the Health of Respectable Women. Principally supported by voluntary contributions. Established 1825."

The front-door, with its fluted pilasters and ornamental stucco work, is very handsome. It leads into a well-paved hall, from which rises a wide staircase, with old-fashioned spiral balusters. The height and roominess of this staircase at once proclaim it to have been a comfortable dwelling-house, and this is true. One John Wilmer, a Quaker, formerly lived here; he died in 1764, and was so much afraid of premature interment that he left elaborate directions for periodical inspections of his corpse, and for the use of a bell, which was to be attached by a wire to his hand in case he needed assistance. He was to be buried in his own garden, but this portion of the garden is now within the yard of an adjacent timber merchant; the grave is still there.

To return to the Invalid Asylum. The rooms are all panelled with wood, and are comfortable. Tired, overworked young women find here a refuge. They are chiefly of the servant or shop-girl class, and contribute something to their own expenses. The Home is a unique combination of hospital and convalescent home, for it owns a staff of trained

nurses. The back of the house is quite as attractive as the front, with its combination of red and yellow brick, its large windows and elaborate doorway, which differs but little from that in front. There is a large garden, and in the centre an iron gate of quaint design between two brick piers.

Further north are more shops, and then the solid piers of the gates of Abney Park Cemetery.

Of *Abney Park Cemetery* we have already heard (see p. 59). The manor came into the possession of Lady Abney through her father, John Gunston. The Manor House, which stood on part of the ground now enclosed by the cemetery, is chiefly interesting as having been the home of Isaac Watts.

In 1694 Watts was appointed tutor to the Hartopps, who lived in Fleetwood House, adjacent to Gunston's new acquisition. It is probable that here he became acquainted with Lady Abney, for he went to her house at Theobalds on a visit to recruit his strength, and, returning with her to Stoke Newington, remained with her and her daughter until his death in 1748.

The cemetery was bought in 1840; it was to supplement that of Bunhill Fields. It is chiefly used by Nonconformists, and is unconsecrated. It contains about thirty-two acres, and is composed of the grounds belonging to Fleetwood as well as

Abney House. The latter house stood for four years after the cemetery was opened, and was used as a Dissenting college. On its site is now a monument to the memory of Watts, who lived beneath its roof so many years. His statue, in robes, stands on a huge pedestal, and an inscription states it was erected by public subscription in 1845. His epitaph is Dr. Johnson's eulogy. The record of his birth and his thirty-six years' residence in Lady Abney's house is also inscribed. It is, perhaps, unnecessary to add that Watts is not buried here, but in Bunhill Fields.

On the north of the monument are the catacombs, and beyond these, again, in the centre of the ground, a neat little Gothic chapel. There is a fashion in tombstones, as in everything else. Instead of the vast Egyptian mausoleums of Kensal Green, or the plain white marble slabs of the newer Highgate Cemetery, a pedestal surmounted by a small statue or an urn seems to find most favour in Abney Park.

There is one entrance only, from Stamford Hill, where solid plain piers of Portland stone support the gates, and are flanked on either side by lodges of the same material. But though there is only one entrance, there is another gateway closed. This is the old gateway of Abney House, opening into Church Street. The gates are of iron, with railings on either side. These are, unfortunately,

boarded in, which divests them of all attractiveness. Not far from this spot, within the cemetery, is the grave of Mrs. Booth, of the Salvation Army, whose funeral was attended by hundreds of people from all parts of England. There is no long list of celebrities buried here, as in some of our great cemeteries, but the graves lie thick and close together, so that it is difficult to realize the ground has been open such a comparatively short time. One magnificent old cedar-tree spreads its branches over what was once a portion of the garden of Fleetwood House. In this tree, in the actual wood, there is enclosed a scythe, of which the story goes that a labourer hung it up one day, intending to return, and never came back. There the scythe hung year by year until the tree grew round it and buried it, and in one nook of its trunk there are still to be seen the two little knobs of iron which form the head of the scythe, which will soon be buried also.

From the foregoing pages it may be gathered that Stoke Newington, though not large in area, can hold its own for interest with any London parish. It has had within its borders as residents such men as Defoe, Isaac Watts, Isaac d'Israeli, Samuel Rogers, Thomas Day, and the elder Wesley. There are slighter associations with the names of Charles and John Wesley, the first Earl of Beaconsfield, Edgar Allan Poe, Bunyan, and

Mrs. Beecher Stowe; there are traditions of Queen Elizabeth and of Leicester. So the parish is exceptional, even in London, where the very streets speak history, and we are reminded of the mighty dead at every turn.

INDEX

THE END

BILLING AND SONS, LTD., PRINTERS, GUILDFORD