

Sanitary Inspectors Conference Chairman, General Council, Sanitary Inspectors' Association.

In addition, the following Recording Secretaries have been appointed:—

World Health Section ... Prof. Andrew Semple, M.o.H. Liverpool.  
 Veterinary Hygiene Section ... Prof. H. Burrow, Professor of Medicine, Royal Veterinary College.

#### FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

*Wednesday, 16th November, 1955.*

#### London Sessional Meeting on "The Design of Health Buildings."

AT THE SOCIETY'S Headquarters at 11.0 a.m. Papers on "The Hospital and Its Out-Patient Department," by Dr. C. W. Gordon, T.D., Deputy Senior Administrative Officer, Birmingham Regional Hospital Board, and "The Clinic Requirements of Local Authorities and the Functions of Such Clinics," by Dr. A. B. Stewart, Deputy, M.o.H., London C.C.

At 2.0 p.m. Papers on "The Design of Clinics in Great Britain and of Continental Out-Patient Departments," by Mr. Donald A. Goldfinch, E.R.D., Dip.T.P., F.R.I.B.A., Architect, Birmingham Regional Hospital Board, and "The Design of Out-Patient Departments in Great Britain," by Mr. Alan H. Devereux, B.A.(Arch.), F.R.I.B.A.

*Wednesday, 14th December, 1955.*

London Sessional Meeting. At the Society's Headquarters at 2.30 p.m. Paper on "Vaccination Against Poliomyelitis," by Sir Weldon Dalrymple-Champneys, Bt., M.A., D.M., F.R.C.P., D.P.H., Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Ministry of Health.

## Knole.

THIS GREAT GRAVE HOUSE crowns the rounded hill or "knoll," from which it takes its name, near the ancient town of Sevenoaks, in Kent. It is built of Kentish ragstone, grey, rough and silvery; yet its roofs are of reddish-brown tiles, so that from the air one would get the impression of a brown house, several acres of it, squarely arranged round its seven courtyards of varying size.

One curious feature about Knole is that it has seven courtyards corresponding to the days of the week, fifty-two staircases to the weeks of the year, and three hundred and sixty-five rooms to the days of the year. One would suppose from this that the house had been built in one period by one owner; this is not so. Knole has grown and owner after owner has added something to it, either in its main structure or interior adornment.

Tradition held by many Kentish historians says that Knole has been held since the time of King John (1199-1216) by the Bethunes, and then by the Marshals, Earls of Pembroke, and then by the Bigods, Earls of Norfolk.

No documentary evidence yet discovered has proved the accuracy of these assertions. They may or may not be true. One certain fact is, that the first known reference to Knole occurs in the Lambeth Palace papers for 1281, Edward the First then being on the throne, when two unexplained characters, calling themselves William and Roger de Knolle, heirs of Robert de Knolle, transfer nine acres of land to a neighbour, and finally that Knole itself, after passing through the hands of various people successively (called Geofhurst, Ashburnham, Longley, Legh, and possibly Grandison), is conveyed to Geoffrey, Lord de Say, at some date near 1370. Geoffrey de Say's son, William, succeeded him, but as he

died without heir, Knole passed to his three sisters as co-heiresses and eventually to a son of one of the sisters, James Fiennes, created Lord Saye and Sele in 1447. It is his son William Fiennes who launches Knole on its splendid career, by selling it for £266 13s. 4d. to Thomas Bouchier, Archbishop of Canterbury, on June 30th, 1456.

Bouchier loved Knole. He spent much time there, he died there and he built much of the great house. The massive, uncouth buildings which he purchased from Lord Saye and Sele were very elementary; they are still to be seen in the kitchens of stone-flagged back quarters. Bouchier, by his additions, transformed this fortress-like nucleus into an abode fit for the Princes of the Church, and later for the Sackvilles, with whose name it must for ever be associated.

Archbishop Bouchier must be honoured, not only as a great builder, but also as a man of culture who "opened his house to literary men, whose society he much enjoyed," thus anticipating the Sackvilles in the long tradition of literary connexion which has always been a source of pride to Knole. Archbishop Bouchier presented it to the See of Canterbury in 1480, six years before his own death.

Four more Archbishops follow him there: John Morton, from 1487 to 1500; Henry Deane, from 1501 to 1503; William Warham, from 1504 to 1532; Thomas Cranmer from 1532 to 1538.

Unlike his predecessors, Cranmer's tenure was not terminated by death; it was terminated by the cupidity of the King.

Henry VIII was well acquainted with Knole; he had stayed there with Archbishop Warham in 1510, his daughter Princess Mary had been lodged there for six months in 1533 as Cranmer's guest, and one may reasonably suppose that he often passed there on his way to Hever, the home of Anne Boleyn. His eye now fell covetously upon the Archbishop's truly magnificent possession. Cranmer tried to resist, without success.

Henry VIII spent considerable sums of money on Knole, but there is little record of his spending much time there after extracting the gift from the reluctant Cranmer.

His son Edward VI never appears to have stayed at Knole during his short reign, but in 1551 assigned it to John Dudley, Duke of Northumberland, who evidently lived there for a time, since State Papers are recorded as having been written from that address. For some reason Northumberland returned Knole to the Crown after a brief ownership of two years. Queen Mary granted it for life to Cardinal Pole (who, after ten days became Archbishop of Canterbury). Knole thus for a short time enjoyed the unusual distinction of being both a royal and an archiepiscopal palace.

Queen Mary and Cardinal Pole, both dying on the same day, she in the morning and he in the evening of November 17th, 1558, Knole once more lost its connexion with Canterbury and reverted to the Crown.

For the next few years its history became involved in a tangle of disputes and leases:—

- (1) In 1561 Queen Elizabeth granted Knole to Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, who was the fifth son of the previous owner, the Duke of Northumberland.
- (2) Lord Leicester sub-let Knole in 1565 to one Thomas Rolf, but reserved to himself and his heirs the right to occupy the house as often as they should choose, with the exception of the gate-house, which was to remain in Rolf's undisturbed possession.
- (3) A John Lennard appears on the scene, bent upon persuading Rolf to surrender his lease, but Rolf was unwilling, saying that he desired to enjoy Knole and would "liefer lose his life" than part with a thing he so much "coveted to possess."
- (4) The dispute is partially solved by the death of Rolf at the end of the year, 1565, when Lennard obtains his lease but is unable to enter into the enjoyment of Knole because Lord Leicester refuses him admission.

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