

England at Her Best.

THERE IS, PERHAPS, no lovelier time of year than early summer, for so it seemed to the party of Fellows, and Members of the British College of Nurses, Ltd., and their friends on pleasure bent on 5th June, when they left Queen's Gate by coach to visit Wisley.

As they sped along the Queen's Highway, they were soon passing through the countryside typical of Surrey common land, wooded with pine, birch and oak, indeed Silver birch abounds, and yellow broom and gorse are masses of gold.

Deep in such woodland beauty, the gates of Wisley are reached.

Passing beneath great oaks, we come to the fine wrought-iron gates, erected in 1926 as a memorial to the late Rev. W. Wilks, Secretary to the Royal Horticultural Society from 1888 to 1920, who developed Shirley poppies from a single plant of unusual colour discovered in a field, of the wild species, *Papaver Rhoeas*.

As one enters the gardens, the design of the whole scene is delightful.

Two charming residential buildings stand on either side; on the left is the Curator's house, and on the right is the Laboratory, of which the architectural design in its combination of narrow brick and oak half timbering creates the atmosphere of an old and beautiful home. It is, therefore, surprising to learn that it was built as recently as 1914-1916.

This lovely house in its beautiful surroundings is occupied by the administrative staff and advisory and research officers under control of the Director. The Laboratory is also the Headquarters of the School of Horticulture, and provides well-equipped students' class-rooms required for the courses.

There is provision at Wisley for a two-year course for some 20 student gardeners, who receive thorough training in practical work and instruction in the sciences having a bearing on horticulture. At present, the Ministry of Agriculture has organised a course of one year for ex-servicemen wishing further training in horticulture.

And now for two or three hours' ramble through the glories of horticulture. As we follow the path by the Laboratory there are terraced lawns, of which the walls are of Sussex sandstone—here shrubs and rock plants of many varieties flourish.

Water-lilies of choice varieties are blooming in tanks set in the lawns. In the narrow beds surrounding the Laboratory there is a variety of tender plants which are happy if grown near a wall. Among these is the yellow variety of *Winter-sweet* which flowers in January; both single and double *Camellia Japonica*; coloured tree peonies and the rare pink-flowered hybrid *Jasminum*.

Floral Trial Grounds.

From the lawns a flight of stone steps brings us to the terrace. Here, an area of some two and a half acres is divided into three sections, choosing the middle one—it is intensely interesting to stroll on the broad grass walk where the wide borders on either side are devoted to dahlias and delphiniums, and en route to turn in through several openings in the surrounding magnificent hedge of clipped *Horneam*, 8 ft. high, which leads directly into the Floral Trial Grounds, a section so valuable to growers and students, but we must not tarry for there is so much to see in Wisley's wonderland of 306 acres.

Next, past the *Azaleas*, and crossing a rustic bridge, a climb to the crest of the ridge of what is known as *Battleston Hill*, acquired in 1936, adds a lovely piece of wooded hill and dell to the grounds and where amazing varieties of *Rhododendron*, in their pristine beauty, have received the Society's award of Merit.

In *Battle Hill dell*, there is the rock garden with pools and miniature falls which merge into the alpine meadow, with the pond full of water lilies, from which the wild garden is reached, here adding to a large variety of flowering shrubs there has been planted over a thousand British ferns, be-

queathed by the late Mr. W. B. Cranfield; among these are very rare and beautiful kinds.

In *Seven Acres* there is the lake converted from an enlarged gravel pit, where water lilies float. There is, too, a joyous walk through the "Pinetum."

Space does not permit the description of an excursion of the glass-houses, among which are those of *Peach*, *Vine*, *Orchid*, *Alpine* and propagatory houses.

The wonders of Wisley are due to a great benefactor, Mr. George F. Wilson, who was the original owner, and first emerged as a garden in the 1870s, when Mr. Wilson purchased a 60-acre estate.

He was one of the most notable amateur gardeners of his day, and visualised the possibilities of a great horticultural centre.

His ideals in this great institution successive Directors have continued to support so loyally, and give us the incalculable advantages of Wisley today, which could we visit it every month, beauty in all its seasonal changes awaits us with enhanced charm.

The further happy story of the rest of this tour, the visit to *Albury Park*, will be published in the next issue.

A. S. B.

New Chairman of The Royal Sanitary Institute.

Election of Dr. A. Parker, C.B.E.

THE ROYAL SANITARY INSTITUTE announces the election of Dr. A. Parker, C.B.E., as the new Chairman of its Council. He assumes his new office on October 1st, when he will succeed Mr. J. C. Morris, B.Sc., A.M.I.C.E., the present holder of that office.

Dr. Parker who has been a member of the Institute for the past 15 years and served on its Council for some seven years, is also Chairman of its Congress Committee.

As Director of the Fuel Research Station at Greenwich, he has played a leading part, among other things, in the investigations which have taken place in connection with smog, which have led to the provision throughout the country of smoke and sulphur dioxide recording apparatus from which daily measurements are made.

Educated at Manchester Grammar School and Owens College of Manchester University, Dr. Parker graduated with first-class honours in chemistry. He subsequently served during World War I as lecturer on physical chemistry and thermodynamics at Birmingham University where he was awarded a doctorate in science.

From 1919 to 1928 he was in charge—for a joint committee of the Institution of Gas Engineers and the University of Leeds—of investigations at gas works on processes of the manufacture of coal gas and water gas, recovery of by-products, etc.

He subsequently joined the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, serving in various capacities until his present appointment as Director of Fuel Research in 1943.

In 1945 he headed a team of British and American experts who visited Germany to carry out an investigation of plants making oil from coal.

Distinguished awards made to Dr. Parker during the course of his long scientific career include the Osborne Reynolds Medal of the Institution of Chemical Engineers in 1941, and the Telford Premium of the Institution of Civil Engineers in 1942. More recently still, during this year in point of fact, he was awarded the Melchett Medal by the Institute of Fuel. This award is conferred for "outstanding work whether in research, administration, construction or other professional activities involving scientific preparation or use of fuel, the results of which have recently been made available for the benefit of the community."

Dr. Parker is President of the Fuel Luncheon Club in London, a member of the Council of the Institute of Fuel, and Honorary Secretary of the British National Committee of the World Power Conference.

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