

## Albury Park.



Albury Park.  
Looking through the Gateway.

AFTER LEAVING WISLEY, the Fellows, Members and friends of the British College of Nurses, Ltd., journeyed on until they reached Albury Park.

To continue our day's tour the party drove from Wisley and *en route* for Albury Park, finding much enjoyment in recounting the wonders of the charm of Wisley and its comparatively modern creation! Very soon, however, we were to be reminded of other aspects in England's long history when turning by Newlands Corner, to look down upon a scene as it must have been before the Conquest! A land of wood and pasture stretching on every side to the hazy blue distant horizon. An uninterrupted panorama so serenely impressive of dear old England. The coach slowly makes its way down the steep hill into the peaceful valley of Tillingbourne, and a little distance further we pass through the entrance of Albury Park, taking our way up the drive to the courtyard from which the House is reached.

"Albury House is one of those country houses which are the glory of our English civilisation." Its records, we learn, "date back to 1042, when the Manor was held by one Azor, from King Edward the Confessor, in 1066. After the Conquest, it was granted by the Conqueror to Richard de Tronebridge, possessor of forty other Manors in this County, and is entered in Domesday Book." The House, in its long, interesting history, has changed hands many times. In 1697 it was largely destroyed by fire and rebuilt by the Earl of Aylesford.

After touching on something of its long story we pass into the Hall, where one can study, here and in the many elegantly appointed apartments, collections of rare treasure—of pictures by old masters of famous schools a collection of no fewer than 131! among which are the works of Canaletto, Tintoretto, Rubens and Sir Joshua Reynolds. The portrait of Napoleon Bonaparte by Thomas Phillips, of which it is recorded that after the Peace of Amiens in 1803 Phillips was sent to Paris by Hugh, Second Duke of Northumberland, to

paint a portrait of the First Consul. Napoleon, however, refused to sit for the portrait, but gave him permission to attend Court functions. From the studies he has made Phillips painted this portrait. (Phillips, dressed as a waiter, sketched Napoleon on his shirt-cuff.)

Everywhere there is a delightful variety of antique furniture—beautiful cabinets and bureaux there are, in which collections of rare china and porcelain are arranged, such as Chelsea, Sèvres, service by Ancienne Maison Dagoty, Paris, the last-mentioned very fine.

Among the numerous tapestries, the panels of Soho tapestry which adorn the Dining-room are seen to great advantage, and the richly coloured carpet on the floor had been in use there for two hundred years.

The staircase by Soan gives an air of grace and light and a notable feature of Albany House is the walnut panelled doors surrounded with oak, impressive of strength.

Now to the gardens! Leading from the Courtyard by the antique, iron-wrought gates which give access, the house terrace is reached. Between the garden and house there runs a stream and beyond rises the hillside, radiant in spring and high summer with azaleas, flowering shrubs and rare trees. A stroll across the bridge and we find the first of the terraces built into the hill, an ingenious conception of the notable diarist of that time, Sir John Evelyn, in the year 1665.

"I went to Alburie to visit Mr. Howard, who had begun to build and alter the gardens much," and five years later he notes, "I accompanied Mr. Howard to his villa at Alburie where I designed for him the plot for his canal and garden. . . ." At the back of this garden and facing the yew tree now is a wall, probably ten feet high, which forms the breastwork of a terrace and it is this terrace which is the most beautiful thing that I ever saw in the gardening way. It is a quarter of a mile long and, I believe, between thirty and forty feet wide, of the finest green sward and as level as a die."

From the second and highest terrace we look down on the stately old pile with its tall brick chimneys of such variety that no two are alike, and to the right the ancient little Norman church nestling in a cluster of beautiful trees. We felt it was an afternoon to remember for a glimpse of this historic corner of Surrey and a peep into the treasure of past and present glories so faithfully preserved for the enjoyment of future generations.

A. S. B.

## A Walk Round Chester Cathedral.

CHESTER CATHEDRAL WAS not always a Cathedral but the Diocese of Chester now consists of all the parishes in Cheshire.

Up to the time of Henry VIII Cheshire was part of the Diocese of Lichfield.

In those days the building which is now a Cathedral was an Abbey. Therefore in your walk round the Cathedral you will also be seeing an old Abbey, both the Abbey Church and the buildings attached to it, which were the monks' house.

The Abbey was founded not many years after the Norman conquest, but before that time there was a Saxon church here. It was called, as was the Abbey which succeeded it, St. Werburgh's, this saint lived in the 7th century when England was still divided into a number of kingdoms. The part of the country which we now call the Midlands was then the Kingdom of Mercia and Werburgh's father was King of Mercia.

She, herself, was one of several Anglo-Saxon princesses, all of them nuns, who are honoured for their work for religion and civilization in those far off days. But St. Werburgh did not have any special connection with Chester in her life time.

It was when the Viking pirates were plundering England that her body was brought for safety from the village of

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