

THE REOPENING OF THE "DREADNOUGHT" CHAPEL.

We are indebted to the Seamen's Hospital Society "Dreadnought," of which the President is Captain His Royal Highness the Duke of York, K.G., K.T., R.N., for our interesting illustration of the stained glass window in the chapel, the reopening of which took place on November 2nd.

Sick and injured seamen of all nationalities are treated in the eight establishments of the Society, and the "Dreadnought" Hospital, Greenwich has a particularly interesting history which is related by Sir James Michelli, C.M.G., in the Quarterly Magazine of the Society for October. Sir James says —

"'Greenwic' or the 'Village on the Green' is mentioned in the chronicles of Alfred the Great, where it is related that the Manor was in the hands of the Church of St. Peter of Ghent. Once the favoured residence of English kings and queens, it is perhaps best known to-day for its Royal Observatory, which was founded in 1675 at the instance of Charles II for the assistance of navigation.

"Off Greenwich in 1830 lay the old 'Dreadnought.' Under Captain John Conn she had played an honourable part in the battle of Trafalgar, when the English fleet of 27 ships of the line, 4 frigates and 2 small craft was under the command of Vice-Admiral Lord Nelson in the 'Victory.' The 'Dreadnought' had seven men killed and twenty-six wounded on that great occasion; her last experience of active service was in the Baltic under the command of Admiral Sir James Saumarez. Having been a fighting ship of good fame, it was fitting that she should end her days helping mariners in distress during the depression following the Napoleonic Wars.

"The welfare of the seafarer appealed so strongly to a certain John Lydekker that, when dying of cholera in 1832, he directed that his five ships should be sold for the benefit of the men in the care of the 'Dreadnought.' Lydekker was born in America in 1778, where his father owned land in Long Island and in Albany and the estate of Hackensack in New Jersey. No. 4, Brabant Court,

Philpot Lane, Fenchurch Street, where he died, is a typical merchant's house of early eighteenth century date.

"In Greenwich there are many historic buildings, including the Queen's House, by Inigo Jones, and Greenwich Hospital by Wren. Charles II began this magnificent palace of freestone on the riverside, and later William III completed and instituted it as a home for naval pensioners in memory of the naval victory of La Hogue and of his beloved Consort Mary. The Painted Hall, containing the Nelson relics, the Chapel and Museum are all of great interest. In 1870 the Admiralty made other arrangements

for its pensioners and Greenwich Hospital was used to house the Royal Naval College. The Infirmary, passed into the hands of the Committee responsible for the old 'Dreadnought' and the men aboard her were transferred ashore."

We learn from the Quarterly Magazine that the chapel has been redecorated and restored in a suitable manner, making it most truly worthy of the purpose to which it has so long been devoted. It is good news that the glorious stained glass window, which commemorated the generosity of John Lydekker in 1832, when he made it possible for the Society to obtain an Act of Incorporation by a large gift, has been safely replaced in the west end of the chapel. It was removed for protection whilst the workmen were completing the interior decoration, and now, since its restoration, has been fitted on the outside with a wire shield. The Secretary of the Hospital is R. E. V. Bax, Esq., and the Matron, Miss C. E. Hayden.



THE STAINED GLASS WINDOW AT THE "DREADNOUGHT" HOSPITAL, GREENWICH, IN MEMORY OF JOHN LYDEKKER, 1832.

commonly used are most suitable for feeble convalescent patients or for those on crutches. Recently, a second fatal accident occurred at Tooting Bec Mental Hospital in consequence of the slipperiness of the floors. A female patient slipped as she was getting out of bed, fractured her thigh, and died of hypostatic pneumonia. At the inquest Dr. P. M. Turnbull, the medical superintendent, stated that since a similar happening a short time ago the floors had been made less slippery.

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