

drinkings"—festivities which would appear to have proved a useful source of income, in the good old times, for the Church of Bishops Stortford. We admired greatly the 15th century rood screen, the old hexagonal pulpit, the jewel-like windows, the fine miserere seats (believed to have been brought from the Old Cathedral of St. Paul's) with their evidence of an artistic imagination as well as an unerring art of the chisel. We found ourselves remarking on the beauty of the wood. Its very surface gave pleasure and we learnt that a number of ladies take full responsibility for caring for it, to preserve for the present and the future the heritage of art that was the creation of human hands that have, many of them, rested for centuries now in the quiet of the churchyard, bordered by the old streets and the flowers of the Vicarage garden.

Mr. McCarthy had arranged that certain treasures be laid out for our inspection. There was the ancient Norman chest with its 13 locks controlled by one key alone, a triumph of the locksmith's art. A collection of documents dating from the 13th and 14th centuries is suggestive of how very closely this church has been interwoven with the lives of the people in the town. Both parchment and ink are in fine preservation and the penmanship would put a 20th century scholar to shame; true those old churchwardens' accounts are not of the involved and analytical character that has called out the persistence and accuracy that characterises the work of our very efficient book-keeper at Queen's Gate; Chartered Accountants did not exist in those days and so life was less complicated in so far as accounts were concerned. There were many quaint and interesting references in the manuscripts, relating sometimes to the journeyings of the bells, to payments to "little Robyn" for his joinering, and to the vermin killer for his quota of "crose eggs, hedds of pyse, myse and weysells" indicating that the vicar and churchwardens in olden times gave thought to sanitation. There is one interesting entry of a payment "for ringing upon the crownacion daye for the Queenes prosperous Raigne in meate and drink" and "for ringing the tewesday after . . . in rejoysing of our delyverance from the spaynyardes"; so is commemorated in the archives of the Church the episode of the Spanish Armada. One more entry we feel bound to refer to—a payment "to Warmans wife for juniper and things to perfume the church." It appears not so long after a visitation of the plague at Bishops Stortford and the "perfumes and things" may have had a similar hygienic purpose to that of the posies in the London Law Courts. An old set of chains, once found in the churchyard, was shown to us. It is surmised that the body of some unfortunate man, who had suffered the extreme penalty of the law, had been taken to the churchyard—a last hope for his soul's salvation, this placing of his body in consecrated ground. Another chord with the past was struck, but in more stately measure, when we were shown the supposed tomb of King Harold and "Eddeva the Fair," and given details regarding the discovery of a vault with stone coffins and the reasons why it is believed that two of them were those of King Harold and his Queen.

We left Bishops Stortford with feelings of gratitude to our kind host and hostess; they had given to us a store of memories of beautiful things and of great kindness to stimulate us in the long days of the busy winter ahead. And they added to those memories the pleasures of anticipation too by an invitation to come again sometime to make the acquaintance of the town itself and all its associations with bygone years.

We proceeded on our way to Cambridge and from there on to the works of Messrs. Chivers where we admired the efficiency of the organisation and all the precautions taken in connection with the preservation of the fruit and the manufacture of foods. The Welfare department must be a splendid asset to the thousands of workers employed, so

far as the maintenance of health is concerned. We enjoyed an excellent tea at this important and very modern centre of activity before we set out again on our homeward way.

FIXTURES.

We remind our Members of the lecture to be given at 194, Queen's Gate, on Thursday, 18th October, on "The Story of the Hospitals," by Major Rigg, O.B.E., F.S.A., at 3.0 p.m. and of the dance which certain Members of the Royal British Nurses' Association are giving on 27th October, particulars of which can be obtained from the Secretary.

On Thursday, 15th November, at 8.0 p.m., Miss Jessie Holmes will give a lantern lecture on her recent visit to Spain when she will show views of the Escorial and other beautiful things.

On Tuesday, 20th November, at 5.0 p.m., Dr. Burnett Rae will give a lecture on "The Influence of the Personality on Health." Dr. Burnett Rae is a well known writer and lecturer on subjects relating to the mind and is in charge of the psychological department at Croydon General Hospital. Tea (price 6d.) will be served at 4.30 p.m.

BIRTHDAY PARTY AND SALE OF WORK.

We have of recent years combined our "Birthday Party" and the Sale of Work, and the arrangement will be followed again this year. The 7th of December is the anniversary of the foundation of the Association, and it has always given us much pleasure that there has invariably been a large gathering on that date. Some of the older members, as the years go by, find a journey to headquarters beyond their strength, but we receive many kind messages of good will and remembrance as the 7th of December draws near.

While festivities are confined to the drawing room the Sale of Work goes on just as cheerfully in the Council room and the dining room. Already we hear that needles are busy and birthday gifts are in process of preparation. We thank everyone very sincerely for their industry and generosity, for this "Birthday Sale" is of enormous help in maintaining and adding to the beauty of the Association's headquarters; the cost of doing so is always heavy.

This year a good deal of internal decoration was accomplished besides supplying new chintzes for the drawing room. In addition to this the whole frontage was due to be washed and painted and this is a heavy item. Next year the hall and staircases will require redecoration and the birthday gift on December 7th next, will be used towards that.

ARTISTIC OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY.

Our section for Arts and Crafts on Tuesday afternoons is progressing well, and so far weaving appears to be the most popular of the arts taught, perhaps because it gives opportunity for working in colour which is fascinating to most people. Basket-making comes next, and those attending the classes appear to enjoy them greatly. Anyone desiring particulars regarding them should write to the Secretary.

APPOINTMENT.

Miss Bertha M. Robinson, M.R.B.N.A., who was trained at the West Middlesex Hospital, has been appointed School Matron at the Canford School, Wimborne. We wish her every success in this important branch of nursing.

194, Queen's Gate,
London, S.W.7.

ISABEL MACDONALD,
Secretary to the Corporation.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)