

"Old Bankside." *

MISS GRACE GOLDEN'S "OLD BANKSIDE" brings a unique and delightful history of Southwark from Roman times to our own twentieth century. An artist, too, Miss Golden had lived in Bankside, and in combining her talents of art and authorship, her book is greatly enriched by her beautiful and amazingly numerous illustrations of the Old Bankside she loves. With unflagging interest we follow the story of ancient grandeur—of erections regrettable and otherwise that have replaced some of our glories. Of the Bishop's Palace, some 500 years ago, the author brings in her accomplished way the scene and wonderful story of the culmination of one of the "most charming romances in history"—the wedding festivities of James of Scotland and Joan Beaufort, daughter of the Earle of Somerset and niece of Henry Beaufort, Bishop of Winchester, which happened in the court-yard of this "very fair house"—the site now that of Winchester yard! For centuries the Thames was the main highway of traffic, its waters seethed with the transit of the populace coming and going, the river so easily reached by its many water stairs. Pageantry and ice fairs were also a great feature. There was the Black Death—followed a year later, in 1666, by the Great Fire—which brought opportunity for replanning.

How many historical personages come out and live! Of Shakespeare and his contemporaries in the Drama world—infinite detail of Bankside theatres—and their crises. The Bear Gardens, where bear baiting was a popular sport and when Queen Elizabeth took the French Ambassador to divert him from his political mission!

We meet Dr. Johnson and the literary Mrs. Thrale, and learn of her husband's admiration of the doctor! Samuel Pepys, who enjoyed his visits to the Bear Garden. "Though he doubted the propriety of those expeditions"

Miss Golden's Story of Old Bankside, like Pepy's Diary, whatever the page you turn, holds the reader—charmed—indeed a wholly delightful book, and we feel she contributed to the annals of her subject not only charm, but a work that will live.

A. S. B.

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An Electrically Controlled Page-Turner for the Bedridden.

BRISTOL'S FESTIVAL OF BRITAIN organisers received hundreds of applications, even from as far afield as South Africa, for the job of demonstrating an electrically controlled page-turner for the bedridden. The page-turner was an exhibit on one of the 75 stands which formed part of the "Our Way of Life" Exhibition (July 7th-21st)—itself one of half-a-dozen exhibitions running in Bristol for the Festival season.

The successful applicant was a State Registered nurse and midwife, living in Bristol—Miss Margaret Gildea (57), a native of Ireland. Miss Gildea came to England in 1921, took her certificate of midwifery at Leeds University and came to Bristol in 1935. Owing to rheumatoid arthritis, Miss Gildea had to give up her duties in 1944. She was required to lie in bed for a fortnight, demonstrating the apparatus, but Miss Gildea is not the kind of woman who did the job for the sake of a rest. To her, this was just another opportunity of helping the sick in any way she could.

Incidentally, the news of Bristol's search for a "patient" to demonstrate the page-turner reached Launceston, Tasmania, where a member of the nursing staff who contracted poliomyelitis as a result of her duties, has been paralysed for four years. A member of the hospital staff wrote to Bristol's Lord Mayor seeking information about the equipment and this was duly forwarded through the assistance of the Red Cross and St. John Hospital Library Service. This Tas-

manian nurse will now be able to read nursing manuals and novels from the hospital library as well as a souvenir copy of Bristol's Festival Handbook.

Health and nursing services were well represented in the Bristol exhibitions. The City Corporation's own exhibition (also July 7th-21st) included an attractive Public Health Department exhibit dealing in an original way with the themes of School Health, Mental Health Services, Nutrition, Maternity and Child Welfare, Port Health and so on. Attractive murals have been painted by a well-known West Country artist, Mr. Philip Massey.

The "Our Way of Life" Exhibition which aimed at showing the way Bristolians spend their leisure and the forms of service which they undertake for others, contained exhibits by the Red Cross and St. John Organisations, the Hospital Library service and kindred organisations.

Whitley Councils for the Health Services (Great Britain).

NURSES AND MIDWIVES COUNCIL.

THE FOLLOWING AGREEMENTS have been reached by the Council.

The payment of nurses between passing the final examination and state registration (England and Wales).

Under the new system of fees chargeable by the General Nursing Council (England and Wales) for registration, nurses are no longer placed automatically on the Register when they have passed their final examination. They are not placed on the Register until they have paid their registration fee of three guineas and there is inevitably a lapse of time between the passing of the examination and the registration of the nurse. The Whitley Council has agreed that payment as a Staff Nurse should be made retrospective to the date of passing the examination, i.e. the date on which the examination was concluded provided the nurse had then attained the age of 21 years and that she became State registered within three months of the date on which the result was announced. In the meantime she should continue to receive the appropriate students' allowance.

Salaries of certain senior grades of nurses in mental hospitals and mental deficiency institutions.

The salaries of certain senior grades of nurses in mental hospitals and mental deficiency institutions as in the general field are based on those of a ward sister and charge nurse plus an allowance for additional responsibilities. The scales for these grades which are published in the appendix to N.M.C. Circular No. 10 as inclusive scales should, for purposes of transfers between day and night staff and for promotion, continue to be regarded as the scale for a ward sister/charge nurse plus the appropriate allowance. The grades affected and the revised scales, computed as explained above are indicated below:—

		<i>Payment to Hospital or Institution where nurse is resident.</i>
Night Sister in Sole Charge (In Scotland Night Superintendent /Sister in Sole Charge)	(£420-£545) i.e. £395 rising by annual increments of £15 to £500 and a further increment of £20 to £520 plus an allowance of £25 per annum.	£130
Male Night Charge Nurse in Sole Charge	(£430-£545) i.e. £405 rising by annual increments of £15 to £510 and a further increment of £10 to £520 plus an allowance of £25 per annum.	£130

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