CLERKENWELL · 1702 · 1786

ISLINGTON · 1786 · 1825

CROYDON · 1825 · 1879

SAFFRON WALDEN · 1879 · 1902

SAFFRON WALDEN SCHOOL

BI-CENTENARY

SAFFRON WALDEN SCHOOL,

A Sketch of Two Hundred Years.

SAFFRON WALDEN SCHOOL.
Front View.

SAFFRON WALDEN SCHOOL,

A Sketch of Two Hundred Years.

Doctrina sed vim promovet insitam,
Rectique cultus pectora roborant:
Utcunque defecere mores
Indecorant bene nata culpae.
—HORACE.

MUCH of interest may always be found in tracing the course of any life, whether of an individual or of an institution, from its earliest beginning and through its subsequent stages, even when that life is one of the most ordinary and uneventful; and in any existence covering a period of two hundred years it is quite certain that many changes must have occurred, and that many difficulties must have been encountered and on the whole successfully overcome.

The life of the Institution now known as the Friends' School, Saffron Walden, but originally established under the name of Friends' School and Workhouse, Clerkenwell, whose Bicentenary we are met to celebrate to-day, is certainly no exception to this; indeed, if we compare it with other Schools in the Society of Friends, we shall find that it has experienced more vicissitudes than most or perhaps than any other.

From the earliest days of the Society of Friends the subject of Education was one that was regarded as of great importance among them, and George Fox himself was particularly alive to the value of it, and had recommended the establishment of Boarding Schools for the purpose of instructing children, according to the oft-quoted phrase, "in all things civil and useful in the creation." Two such Schools were established, for boys and girls respectively, at Waltham and Shacklewell, about the year 1670.

The Clerkenwell School and Workhouse, however, owed its origin to a somewhat different concern on the part of Friends, and was founded on different lines, the main purpose of its founders being Industrial rather than Educational. One of their aims was to provide employment for their poor members, especially the aged who were supported by the Society, and along with this to combine in the same establishment industrial employment and a certain amount of education for children. This concern on the part of the Friends of London was mainly due to the views of John Bellers, who a few years before had printed certain "Proposals for raising a College of Industry of all useful Trades and Husbandry, &c." This was intended to provide for the better maintenance of the poor, and the education of children.

The subject was brought before the Yearly Meeting by John Bellers in 1697, and again in 1699, when the following minute was adopted :—"John Bellers renewing his Proposal to this Yearly Meeting about the Education and Imployement of Friends' Children and Imployement of the poor among Friends, this meeting approves thereof; and the Friends following offering themselves for this service it is referred to them or any seven of them to consider and digest the said proposal in the best manner for the effecting the good end intended thereby, and y^t Friends who are Schoolmasters may be there as often as the aforesaid Friends desire, or as there is occasion, to meet next morning after

the Yearly Meeting is concluded." Among the names of the forty-one Friends appointed occurs that of Thomas Ellwood; but John Bellers does not appear to have been included.

The following minute was adopted by London Quarterly Meeting when the subject came forward a month later:—"A Paper from the Friends appointed by the Yearly Meeting to consider of Jno. Bellers Proposalls about Imployment of the Poor and Education of youth dated the 30th, 4mo. 1699 directed to this meeting read desireing this meeting if Friends think fitt to recommend it to ye Mo. Meetings that they would appoint 2 Friends in every Mo. Meeting to take account what Friends are willing to help forward soe good a work and what sume they will contribute towards it. As also an Epistle of Jno. Bellers to Friends in Relation to the Education of youth and Imployement of the poor. This meeting agrees y^t^ a Coppy of the said Paper be sent to the several Mo. Meetings in and about this City." A Committee of thirty was ultimately appointed by the Quarterly Meeting to carry the scheme into effect, but though John Bellers was one of the thirty he does not appear to have taken a leading part in the work subsequently, probably because he may have been frequently absent from London on his estate in Gloucestershire. The names of John Hopes, John Edge, John Staploe (Treasurer), Richard Diamond, Daniel Quare, Joseph and Silvanus Grove, Henry Gouldney, and others appear more prominently in the records of the proceedings, and some of these must have devoted a large amount of time to the undertaking.

An inquiry made through the six London Monthly Meetings showed that there were in all 178 aged poor and 53 children eligible for the purpose in view: two of the meetings reported "most of them uncapable of work," but the greater number were found to be "capable of some sort of work." It was there-

At a Quarterly meet: at Devonshire house
the 30th 4 mo: 1701.

The Minute of ye meet: for sufferings — Relating to ye Imployem.t of the Poore —

The minute of the Meeting for sufferings in Relation to the Imployeing the Poor Read — and is agreed unto by this meet: and Benj: Bealing to send Coppyes thereof to the Severall Monthly Meetings as therein directed wch is as followeth:

At a Meeting for sufferings the 27th 4 mo: 1701.

The Opinions of Councellor Northy and King now Read in Relation to the Imployeing the Poor.

This Meet: upon due Consideration of said Councell: opinions, is satisfyed yt Ffriends may Imploye their Poor with safety.

Ffrends to be Chosen by ye Mo: Meet: to consult abot ye Managem.t of ye Poor &c.

And it's agreed that the Quarterly meet: be acquainted herewith in order for their Reccommending it to ye Severall Monthly Meet: if they see meet to appoint two or Three out of each Meeting with Direction to them to meet and consult for the Managem.t of ye said affaire and yt they come Provided with an acco.t of the Poor and their Severall Capacities.

It's Referred to

John Staploe
John Edge
Hen: Gouldny
Jos: Grove
Dan.l Quare
Jos: Wyeth

Or any two of them to Communicate the said Minute to the Quarterly meeting.

And

FIRST PAGE OF FIRST MINUTE BOOK.
The Handwriting appears to be that of Benjamin Bealing.

fore determined to raise a subscription of not less than £2000, and it is worth while to quote part of the Appeal issued: "Soe that according to the direction of the Quarterly Meeting wee doe recommend to the severall Monthly Meetings the proposed subscription and believe it may be of service and benefitt to ye succeeding Generations and a Testimony of our care and simpathy of and with our Poor Brethren and Sisters and their offspring, according to the admonition of the Apostle, that every man as he purposeth in his heart soe let him give, not grudgeingly or of necessity, for God loveth a chearfull Giver and is able to make all Grace abound to those that having sufficiency abound to every good work. Soe we tenderly recommend a subscription to the charitable consideration of Friends of all the said meetings because 'tis needfull that should be first done before we can either provide a place to begin or set the Poor at work. And conclude your Friends and Brethren."

The total amount raised was £1923, and on the 22nd December, 1701, we find recorded, "John Hopes being present and informing this meeting of an extriordinary convenient hous at Clarkinwell he is desired" with eight others named "or any two of them to view the same treate with the Landlord in order for taking the same and make what inquirey they can into the Title, and report to next Meeting." It was reported that they "doe well aprove of it being a very proper and convenient hous." It was taken accordingly on a lease having 34½ years still to run, with a ground rent of £30 per annum, and £136 15s. 6d. was paid to Robert Fairbeard for his interest in the lease. The house secured was known as the Corporation House or Corporation Workhouse situated in the parish of St. James's, Clerkenwell; it was ultimately pulled down in 1818 for the purpose of enlarging Clerkenwell Prison, and was situated at the north-west angle of the ground occupied by the Prison.

Adjourned to this day week.

Met according to adjournm.t the 17th 6mo 1702.

Present:

Robert fairmā Chaireman

Tho: Haines	Wm Tillit	Jno Pantlin
R. Diamond	Jno Kent	Jno Marlow
Dr Briggins	Tho: Bond	R. Newham
Josh Gee	Dan Quire	Tho: Minks
J. Hadwin	Jno Lee	S. Gibson
		Sgt Grove &
		Jam: Brown

Jno Staploe & Dr Briggins Continued to Bring the names ages & allowances of the Poor from the Peele monthly meeting.

The friends all ready named are Continued about Isa: Tailors Tenam.t & also about the Celler at The Gateway.

Junk Bought

John Marlow Reports has Bought 19 lb 2 qr 00 of old Junk & Brought in a Bill for the Same which is 8 lb 16 10 d for which a Bill is given him on Jno Staploe Jno marlow to Bring a Rect for the Same money.

Geo: Barr Reports has Received from Joshua Gee Sixpound & ½ of Chany Silk & The Likw.t in bobins & That Some of The Poor are winding of it.

As agreed that a Range of Bedsteads (Such as is in Bishopsgate Street) be Sett up in one Room for Boys to Lay on & as Each monthly meeting Sends in Boys They are to pay their part of the Charge Thereof And for the Better keeping the Boys in order one or 2 Ancient men to Lodge in the Same Room.

Ancient men to Lodge near the Boys

Daniel Quaire Continued to Bring the names ages & allowances of what other poor are to Come in from the Bull mo.y meeting.

R. fairman

PAGE FROM FIRST MINUTE BOOK.

17th 6mo. (August), 1702.

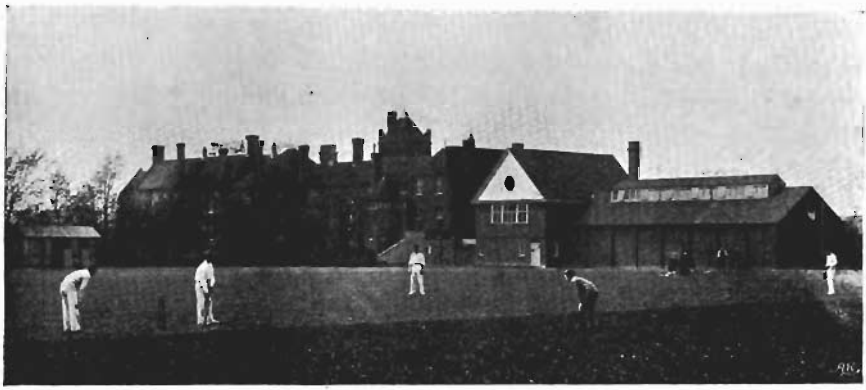
On the 27th July, 1702, it was reported that two women aged 83 and 75 "were come in from the Bull meeting," and "John Staploe gives account one boy from the Peele is come in," so that this may be regarded as the date of the commencement of the original School. On the 31st August the arrival of the following boys is recorded: Calib Smith aged 12, Wm. Serle 13, Sam Thornton 11, Edmd. Grigory 9, and Joseph Nelson 8, also a girl named Bend aged 11. It seems, however, that very few, perhaps no more girls entered for several years; one named Hannah Baker is reported to have entered in 1707, and was then the only one in the School; and probably as no others came the first girl named above may have been sent back shortly: at any rate there were none in the house in August 1703.

The payments made by the Monthly Meetings were mostly 1s. per week for children, and from 1s. 6d. to 3s. 6d. per week for old people. In 1712 it was recommended that the charge for the latter be 3s. per week, and more for such as needed special attention.

In connection with fitting up the house an entry records: "It's agreed that a range of Bedsteads (such as is in Bishopsgate Street) be sett up in one Room for Boys to lay on, and for the better keeping the Boys in order one or 2 Ancient men to Lodg in the same room."

It was "agreed that spining of woole, winding of silk, and spining of cotten may be sorts of work proper to begin withall." We have other early quotations illustrating the employments followed, such as, "Geo. Barr" (the steward) "reports has received from Joshua Gee six pounds and ½ Chany silk and that some of the Poor are winding of it." "Richard Diamond is desired to buy and send in ½ a Bagg of Siporous cotton for the Poor

to spin into Candlewick." "John Marlow reports has bought 19 cwt. 2 qrs. of old Junk" (to be worked into Oakum) "and brought in a Bill for the same which is £8 16 10." Other employments introduced later included the spinning of flax and of mop yarn (woollen) by boys; a buyer offered to take all the mop yarn spun at 4d. per lb. The making of nets was also undertaken at one period, and an instructor was brought from Dover to start this industry.



SAFFRON WALDEN SCHOOL.
From Cricket Field.

Some of the early Bills of Fare are of much interest. From one of these we find that for breakfast the children had each 4 oz. bread, 1½ oz. cheese or 1 oz. butter, and beer sufficient; or else 1 pint broth well thickened with bread, and beer if required. For dinner on three days they had each 6 or 8 oz. of meat according to age, 4 oz. bread and beer sufficient; on three other days each 1 pint milk, rice milk, or pease pottage, and 5 oz. bread; and another day 12 oz. or 1 lb. (according to

age) plumb or plain pudding, with beer sufficient. For supper, bread and cheese or butter, and beer sufficient.

From a record in 1704 we find they began work at six, had half an hour for breakfast and one hour for dinner, two hours writing and reading, and ceased work at six. It seems, however, that they did not always receive even this amount of instruction daily, for in 1707 a Schoolmaster attended three times a week for two hours to teach the boys writing, &c., for which he was to receive £8 per annum.

The Institution thus established in 1702 continued to be carried on on its dual basis, and on nearly the same lines for 109 years, though by degrees more and more time was given to the Education of the children and less to Industrial work. To us, taking a bird's-eye view of the scheme from the vantage-ground of 200 years later, it is evident that the attempt to unite the two elements of the "Ancient Friends" and the children in the same Institution, even though they were largely kept apart, formed an incongruous combination that was not likely to lead to satisfactory results, and it is clear that this was constantly felt as a disadvantage. Many of the old people were from the first a frequent source of trouble. We come across records such as this: "Wm. Elkinton being again this day before the Committee they finde him so far from being sorry for his ill behaveour that he continued to give hard and reflecting language, whereupon this meeting gives fresh orders that he takes away his bed, &c., and be gon." The Committee nevertheless relented somewhat towards this hardened offender, for a subsequent minute records: "Upon consideration that tho Wm. Elkinton has been very disorderly and refractory yet he being poor this Committee in tenderness has ordered Geo. Barr to give him five shilling when he has taken away his bed, &c." Again we read (1739), "The Committee being informed that severall of the Antient people

have gone out and got themselves disordered with liquor, which abuse of liberty is to the disreputation of this House, two of them being examined and confessing the same," &c. On another occasion (1740) the Committee was "informed that Marabella Perkins has pawned her sheets, cloak and several other things, and that Jane Robins, against whom there has been many former complaints, continues to get herself greatly disguised with liquor and likewise pawns and sells her things." Such a large number of the old people, moreover, were found to be infirm, ailing, or otherwise incapable of work, that in the course of time the attempt to keep them at systematic employment was abandoned; and in 1725 it is stated that "they are not kept to any sort of work nor have for divers years past." This condition of idleness would doubtless aggravate some of the difficulties of the establishment. At a later period however we find them again engaged in work.

Probably from the very first it had been felt that the system was not an ideal one, for so early as 1703 Richard Claridge who was a man of education, and himself had a School at Barking, made a proposal to the Committee that they should make inquiry "for an able Schoolmaster both for writing, accounts, and also for Latin, &c., to keep a Schoole in a parte of the Workhouse distinct from the Poor." Again in 1707 a proposal was considered by the Committee "that a Boarding School be set up at the Workhouse at £10 or £12 per annum, for the educating of youth in all manner of usefull learning, and that any men or women Friends may be boarded there at 5s. per week, and that all the said Schoolars and Boarders shall have suitable attendence and eate and lodge separate from the Poor, and in order that Friends may not take exception at the name Workhouse to hinder Friends coming thither to board, and sending their children to School, tis proposed that the

FRIENDS' SCHOOL, ISLINGTON.
(Lent by Benjamin J. Winstone.)

name be changed to the word Colledge which comprehends both Hospital, Workhouse and School." In 1774 the Committee proposed to the Six Weeks Meeting that the ancient Friends should be removed, and maintained by their Monthly Meetings in a private way. Nothing further came, however, of these or other proposals, and it was not till 1786 that any separation of the old people and the children was carried into effect.

In that year the sum of £2850 was raised by Annuities from 39 Friends, who contributed sums of £50, £100 or £200 each, and a new School was erected near the Islington Road. The children were removed there in December, 1786, and in 1787 the old people were transferred to a house that was bought at Plaistow for the purpose by the Quarterly Meeting. The expenses of maintaining two separate establishments proved however to be too great, and an additional building was therefore erected at Islington, and the old people were transferred there and the two families again united in 1792.

The first definite Examination of the children was held by the Committee in 1780, and the record is worth quoting. "The children were severally called before this Committee and examined relative to their progress in learning which was found to be to general satisfaction; some proper commendations being given to the Schoolmaster and Schoolmistress for their former, and suitable advice for their future conduct toward them." A subsequent note adds, "This Committee considering the care of the Schoolmaster and Schoolmistress relating to the children's progress in learning have now given to each one Guinea and a small matter likewise was handed to the Children for their encouragement."

The following year the process is described in more detail. "The children were called up in Classes of about twelve each,

and first the Boys, beginning with the Elder Class, the oldest of which being called to the table a small portion of Scripture was given him to read, sundry words to spell, and a special piece of Writing, which the Elder Class only had wrote was delivered with their Writing and Cyphering books for inspection, which order was continued with little variation till the whole was gone through, except observing to give both easy portions of Scripture and words to spell to those whose time at learning had not afforded them an opportunity of gaining equal experience: the whole was conducted orderly and agreeably, there being an improvement in learning since last year generally conspicuous among them, much to the satisfaction of the Committee." No guineas are however recorded to have been given on this occasion. At the Examination the next year further improvement was noted "particularly in their Reading, an improper tone of voice heretofore prevailing being (by direction of the Committee and care of the Schoolmaster) generally overcome."

It may be mentioned that on the first of these occasions the Committee had the company of Dr. John Fothergill, who is so well known in connection with the establishment of Ackworth School. He had acted as Physician to the School at Clerkenwell for several years, apparently without fee, and had resigned that position in 1765. John Fothergill's name also appears as a member of a Committee appointed in 1774 to visit children who were placed out as apprentices or servants.

Besides being fed, both children and old people were clothed at the expense of the establishment, and material was usually bought for the purpose every two years. Some curious particulars appear in 1738 when a Legacy of upwards of £200 was received which was to be devoted to the provision of

clothing. The following is the list showing how this sum was expended.

	£	s.	d.
52 prs. of Leather Breeches @ 3/9 - - -	9	15	0
178 yds. of Cloth - - 5/6 - - -	48	19	0
52 Boys Hatts - - - 3/- - - -	7	16	0
10 Mens Hatts - - - 5/- - - -	2	10	0
26 Boxes @ 2d. and 10 Boxes @ 3d. - -	0	6	10
7 Mens Wiggs - - 10/6 - - -	3	13	6
29 Boys Wiggs - - 8/- - - -	11	12	0
Stockens - - - - - - - -	8	16	6
Callamancas and Cambletees - - - -	22	4	0
Linnen Drapers Bill - - - - -	24	6	0
Fustians for Linnen (? Linings) and Pockets -	3	19	0
Shoes - - - - - - - -	11	7	0
Stays - - - - - - -	12	8	0
The Mantua Maker - - - - - -	4	4	0
The Taylors Bills for Making the Men and Boys Cloths - - - - - - -	24	6	0
Gloves - - - - - - - -	3	10	0
Buckles and Girdles - - - - - -	2	5	4
Coat and Wast Coat Buttons - - - -	4	1	0
Silk for Hoods - - - - - - -	5	7	8
Some Odd things and Making ye Linnen - -	4	18	0
Cloggs - - - - - - - -	1	6	0
41 yds. Shalloon - - @ 13¼ - - -	2	5	3
	£219	16	1

Many interesting or curious gifts are recorded as having been presented from time to time. Soon after the Institution was opened we read: "Whereas Tacy Sowle hath sent into this hous (as a token of her love) a large folio Bible for the use

of friends, Henry Goldney and Daniel Quare are desired to acquainte her that friends accept of her token very kindly. Ordered that Geo. Barr gits it chained at a place that John Edge thinks convenient." A little later, "Geo. Barr reports has given to 25 antient friends in the house 2d each for 4 weeks last past out of the bag of farthings (viz. 50s) sent in by an unknown person on or about 15th of last month. Geo. Barr is ordered to give them 1d a week so long as the farthings last." On another occasion, "The Steward reports he hath received 4 pare of sheets, 4 lbs. of rice, 1 nutmeg, and 1 shilling for milk from John Marlow as a token of his love to this house."

A few points connected with the Rules of the Committee for regulating their own meetings may not be without interest. At every meeting there was to be a Chairman who was appointed in rotation, the names being taken alphabetically. He was to direct the order of the Committee, prevent two speaking at once, censure any one making personal reflections on another, put the question both for and against, all debates being decided by the majority; in case of an equality of hands he had a casting vote. The 10th Rule was "That if any Member should neglect attending the service of this Committee for three months successively its agreed that such an omission be presented to the Monthly meeting in order that an other be chosen in his Roome." It will be seen that some of these Rules do not quite agree with those recognised as governing the meetings for business and Committees of Friends at the present day. A self-denying ordinance imposed upon the members was that any absent member should pay a fine of 1s. A fine was also levied for neglect to attend on the part of the members who visited the House in the intervals between meetings of the Committee. These fines were put into a box which was opened annually, and the contents were distributed among the Ancient Friends,

the children, and servants. This system of fines was maintained until 1825.

The Monthly Meetings were requested, shortly after the establishment of the School and Workhouse, each to appoint two or more women Friends to come weekly or oftener "to visit the severall poor that come from their meetings to see how they goe forward in their work &c., and incorage them in so doing, and if there be any cause of complaint it may be made to Geo. Barr or to the Committee." Though such Visitors were appointed it is not clear that the practice was long kept up, and in 1750, when it is evident that things were in a very disorganised condition all round, the Quarterly Meeting, after passing what was practically a vote of censure on the Committee, suggested among other things the advantage of having "some prudent women Friends sometimes to visit the House." This was carried out, and thereafter many useful proposals were from time to time introduced by them. The name of Elizabeth Fry appears as one of these Visitors in the year 1805.

As regards salaries, the amount usually given to the Steward, who for the first hundred years or more was the head officer of the establishment, was £20 per annum, though later on in the century £25 or £30 or even £40 was paid, and about 1803 the Steward and Stewardess received £60 jointly. The Schoolmaster in the early days received £6 or £8 per annum; in 1729 £14 was given, which was to advance to £16 and £20 in the two following years. In 1716 a Legacy of £80 was left by Elizabeth Hearn to provide £4 a year for the salary of a Schoolmistress. The sum paid in 1750 was £8, and in 1805 £16.

It may also be of interest to quote a few prices paid for some articles of consumption. In 1785 the meat contract made for nine months was 2s. per stone (8lb.) for beef and 2s. 10d. for mutton. In 1787 a contract was made for best Cambridge

or Dorset butter at 6¼d. per lb., and for best Gloucester cheese at 4¼d. per lb. In the same year "Hagger Allis reports that beer at 12s. per barrel and ale at 30s. has been provided for the Ancient people, and beer at 7s. 4d. for the children, which this Committee approves, and directs that beer at 14s. be also provided for the Stewardess and other servants. In 1825 the meat contract was 5s. 1d. per stone, and milk was 11d. per gallon, or nearly

SAFFRON WALDEN SCHOOL.

From the Boys' Playground.

the same as present prices. A curious note occurs in 1807 in the report of a sub-committee appointed to examine whether any reductions could be effected in the expenses. Under the heading of Grocery they remark, "There is one item which we think should in future have no place in the accounts, and which we the more willingly notice because it concerns the members of the Committee: the article alluded to is that of Hyson Tea at

10s., 10s. 6d., or 11s. per lb., of which we find 7lb. bought in last year." We may picture to ourselves the Committee accustomed to enjoy their Afternoon Tea together at their meetings.

In 1808 the offices of Steward and Schoolmaster were first combined in one individual, Thomas Salter, who was styled the Master, and became the responsible head of the whole establishment. He was succeeded in 1809 by Edmund Gower, a portrait of whom is extant. This plan was, however, afterwards abandoned, and from 1818 till 1825 Abigail Binns filled the office of Stewardess.

The year 1811 opens a new chapter in the history of the Institution, which was henceforth to be carried on as a bona fide School. In that year it was finally decided by the Quarterly Meeting that the old people, then numbering only seven, should be sent back for maintenance by their respective Monthly Meetings in other ways, and that from the 1st July in that year the School should be extended by opening it to children from other parts of the country, the intention being that it should thenceforth be carried on upon lines similar to those of Ackworth School, which had then been established 32 years. The charge, which at that time was 5s. per week, was to be reduced to £10 10s. per annum, to agree more nearly with that at Ackworth.

The four country Monthly Meetings of London Quarterly Meeting, viz., Tottenham, Barking, Longford, and Kingston, and nine other Quarterly Meetings, viz., Essex, Kent, Sussex and Surrey, Dorset and Hants, Berks and Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire, Northamptonshire, and Suffolk were invited to associate themselves by raising annual subscriptions to meet the deficiency consequent upon a reduced charge and increased numbers, in return for which they were to have the privilege of sending their children to the School. Each Meeting was also to appoint Agents. All these Meetings availed themselves of the

offer, although Suffolk withdrew three years later. The management of the School was still confined to the six original London Monthly Meetings.

The number of children at the time when this change was decided upon was reduced to 28, and it was found that there were then 58 London children at Ackworth, or entered for admission there; and although the diminution of numbers is attributed in the Quarterly Meeting's minute to the lower rate charged at Ackworth, we may well suppose that the better education offered in a School whose whole care was devoted to that one object, had not a little to do with this result. It appears however that all industrial work had been discontinued at Islington some years prior to this. Children were to enter between the ages of 7 (shortly altered to 8) and 12, and to leave at 14, unless specially permitted to remain longer at a higher rate. The subjects of instruction were to be Reading, Writing, Arithmetic and English Grammar, and for the girls in addition Needlework, Knitting, and some other branches of domestic employment. What is perhaps the first allusion to any provision for play for the children occurs in 1812, when it was decided to erect two covered sheds for them to play in at a cost of £282. In this year also the first apprentice was taken to be trained as a teacher.

In 1815 there were 111 children in the School, and a proposal had already been under consideration for some alteration and enlargement, in order that it might accommodate from 140 to 150. There was, however, subsequently a great falling off in numbers, the average in 1818 being 94, and in 1819 only 79. In 1821 the first definitely constituted Women's Committee was appointed, consisting of twelve members, two from each of the six Monthly Meetings.

In 1820 the question of removing the School "from the immediate neighbourhood of the Metropolis" was considered by the Quarterly Meeting; and in 1823 the subject was definitely taken up, and a Committee was appointed to investigate situations. Three sites were found that appeared suitable, viz., at Hornsey,

CROYDON SCHOOL.
Front View.
(From a Photo. by Bedford Lemere & Co.)

Wandsworth, and Croydon, and the last named was decided on. Croydon was then a country town with a population of less than 10,000. An estate which comprised a house and about 13 acres of land was purchased for £5,380, and wings were added

to the house to render it capable of accommodating 75 boys and 75 girls. The whole cost, including this enlargement, and the erection of outbuildings, and other alterations and expenses, amounted to £14,388. This money was raised by means of a special subscription, which produced upwards of £11,000, and £3,000 was advanced upon Annuities.

The School was removed to Croydon in November, 1825, and Henry and Edith Dymond were appointed Superintendent and Mistress of the Family at a salary of £120. The number of children was reported shortly after the removal to be 51 boys and 47 girls, and about a year later these numbers had increased to 60 and 67 respectively, of whom 11 were non-members. At about the same time it was decided to present every child entering the School with a Bible, a practice which is still kept up. The new Bill of Fare introduced at Croydon states, "The drink at dinner and supper to be water," as being best for the health of the children, and the water on the premises being excellent." Beer was, however, given to the children on examination days for some years after this time. The expenditure on beer and ale, which was £50 in 1824 and 1825, was reduced to £22 in 1826, and was only £4 in 1841, after which this item disappears from the accounts altogether. In 1830, on the recommendation of the medical officer, meat was provided for the children on six days a week instead of only four.

The water referred to was raised by a force-pump to the cisterns at the top of the house, and the boys used to take it in turns to rise at half-past four, winter and summer, to assist in pumping. As no food was given to them for this early morning task, it is not to be wondered at that at times they felt quite faint, and they were then liable to be reprimanded for only "hanging on." The boys also took it in turns to fetch the milk from Batt's Farm, Norwood, in cans, on a four-wheeled trolley;

a piece of work that was beyond the strength of any but robust boys.

During the years following the removal to Croydon the numbers in the School were well maintained; they reached 150 in 1828, 1836 and 1838; but in 1849 and for a good many years subsequently they were much reduced on the girls' side.

Edward F. and Elizabeth Brady were appointed as the heads of the establishment in 1833, and on the death of the former in 1838 his widow continued to act as Superintendent until 1842, when John and Hannah Sharp were appointed. John Sharp died in 1853, and was succeeded by Charles Fryer; after the sudden death of the latter in the course of the same year, the post was filled by his widow Sarah Fryer. On her retirement in 1860 William Robinson became Superintendent, and was succeeded in 1869 by George F. and Lucy Linney.

In the summer of 1829 a vacation of four weeks was allowed for the first time; after this a similar holiday was granted, usually about every two years, but it was not till 1848 that it became annual. A vacation was first granted in winter in 1862.

In 1831 the rate, which had been raised in 1826 to £13 13s., was reduced to £12. In 1867 a graduated scale of rates was introduced, of £14, £18, £24 and £28. These were raised £2 all round in 1873; and at the same time it was decided to admit children unconnected with the Society of Friends at the highest rate. Three such entered the School in that year.

In 1863 an inspection of the School took place by an Inspector of the British and Foreign School Society. He does not appear to have found much to criticise, but among his suggestions it was recommended that a more modern Grammar than Lindley Murray's should be used. In 1871 the first inspection took place by an examiner appointed by the Cambridge

Syndicate; this was repeated in 1873, and has since been continued every year with one exception; and in many of the Annual Reports are to be found expressions of the advantages to the School from this periodical examination by a competent outside authority. In 1881 the College of Preceptors Examination

CROYDON SCHOOL.
Back View.
(From a Photo. by Bedford Lemere & Co.)

was availed of for the first time, and this Examination has been taken by a portion of the School in most years subsequently. The teaching of Music was first introduced into the School in 1880.

During the continuance of the School at Croydon it was visited by serious epidemics in the years 1839, 1841, 1852, 1858,

1859, and 1864. In 1875 occurred two serious outbreaks of typhoid fever, and these, coupled with the very large growth of population in the neighbourhood, led the Committee to consider the expediency of once again removing the School. Suitable sites were viewed at Alton and Saffron Walden, and the latter place was ultimately decided on. Deborah Gibson and George Stacey Gibson generously presented 6¼ acres of land, and 10 acres in addition were purchased. New buildings designed to accommodate 90 boys and 60 girls were commenced in 1877, and were completed in two years from that time. The total outlay including the land purchased was £30,400, nearly the whole of which was provided by the sale of the estate at Croydon. After the summer vacation in 1879 the School entered on its new home, which it has now tenanted for 23 years.

On the resignation of George F. and Lucy Linney in 1890, they were succeeded by the present Headmaster and his wife, John Edward and Anna Phillis Walker, who have so efficiently governed the School for the past twelve years.

The principal additions to the original buildings have been a Chemical Laboratory provided in 1892, a series of Music-rooms erected in 1898, a class-room and rooms for the teachers on the girls' side, completed in 1901, and a Swimming-bath and Gymnasium, the formal opening of which is to form part of to-day's ceremonies. Towards the additions of the last two years, which include also a few other minor improvements, the sum of £8000 has been raised by donations.

No sketch of the history of the School, however brief, could be considered complete without a reference to the numerous legacies for general or special purposes, of which it has been the recipient, and by which it has so largely benefited. The total sum so received during the 200 years has been upwards of £42,000. The most important of these bequests have been £6,000

left by Devereux Bowley in 1773, and £3,000 by George Stacey Gibson in 1883. Trusts were established by Devereux Bowley's and other legacies for the purpose of providing Apprentice Fees for children educated in the School, and gratuities to young men and women, designed in various ways for their benefit, after

SAFFRON WALDEN SCHOOL. NEW GYMNASIUM AND SWIMMING BATH.
From the Boys' Playground.

completion of their apprenticeship or other term of service. In 1883 the Charity Commissioners sanctioned a scheme for employing the surplus income from these funds mainly for Scholarships; G. S. Gibson's legacy was also chiefly devoted to the provision of Scholarships. The Committee have therefore been able since

the year 1885 to award four Scholarships of £30 each annually, two of them tenable for two years, and two for one year, to be employed in some mode of higher education. This has proved of great benefit to many recipients, as well as giving a healthy stimulus in the School.

Since the School was established on its enlarged basis in 1811 the total number of children admitted has been 3,070, viz., 1,706 boys and 1,364 girls. It is a cause for gratification that the 200th year of its existence finds the School with a larger number of Scholars than has been the case in any previous year of its history, namely 152. Could our predecessors of two hundred years ago look in to-day upon the School which their beneficence was the means of founding, they would surely feel that their work had not been done in vain, and would rejoice that under the Divine Hand their efforts had led on, during the course of two centuries, to so much of benefit and blessing to successive generations.

J.B.C.

HEADLEY BROTHERS, PRINTERS, 14, BISHOPSGATE STREET WITHOUT, LONDON, E.C.; AND ASHFORD, KENT.

SAFFRON WALDEN SCHOOL BICENTENARY.

THE Institution formerly known as the "FRIENDS' SCHOOL AND WORKHOUSE AT CLERKENWELL," was founded in the year 1702. It was moved to Islington in 1786, again to Croydon in 1825, and to Saffron Walden in 1879.

It is the intention of the Committee to celebrate the 200th Anniversary of the foundation of the School on the 13th and 14th of June next, at Saffron Walden, and they cordially invite the company of Friends and Old Scholars and others interested in Education.

A considerable portion of the Building Scheme, which the Committee have had in hand for the past two years, has been carried out, and an interesting feature in the programme will be the opening of the New Gymnasium and Swimming Bath in which a Commemorative Tablet will be unveiled.

PROGRAMME.

Friday, June 13th.

11.15 to 12.45. On arrival at Saffron Walden, visitors will go direct to the Meeting House, High Street, where a MEETING will be held, presided over by J. LISTER GODLEE, B.A., Chairman of the Committee.

A paper will be read on "The History of the School," by JAMES BACKHOUSE CROSFIELD, followed by addresses by WILLIAM ROBINSON, EDMUND ASHBY, and others.

1.15. DINNER in the School Dining Hall.

2.15. OPENING OF THE SWIMMING BATH AND UNVEILING OF THE COMMEMORATIVE TABLET by ALEXANDER PECKOVER, Lord Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire.

OPENING OF THE GYMNASIUM by SAMUEL BLAND, Mayor of Gloucester and President of the Croydon and Saffron Walden O.S.A., to be followed by displays of Aquatics and Swedish Drill by boys and girls conducted by MR. BASSETT.

INSPECTION OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS. The recent additions include on the Girls' side, Music Rooms, Teachers' Studies, Workshop, First-Class Room; On the Boys' side, Music Rooms, Natural History Room, etc.

EXHIBITION OF WORK by the present scholars in Boys' Schoolroom, Boys' Workshop, Natural History Room, and Girls' Workshop.

EXHIBITION OF OLD BOOKS AND RECORDS, PHOTOGRAPHS AND RELICS in the Lecture Room.

4 to 5.30. A MEETING in the Dining Hall, presided over by HENRY TUKE MENNELL, at which it is hoped JOSEPH ALBERT PEASE, M.P., Prof. J. RENDEL HARRIS, JOHN STEPHENSON ROWNTREE, Prof. S. P. THOMPSON, F.R.S., FREDERICK ANDREWS, B.A., ARTHUR ROWNTREE, B.A., and others will take part.

Demonstration of Class-work, Recitations, and Music will be given by the children.

6.15. TEA in the Dining Hall.

The evening will be devoted to games and other amusements.

Saturday, June 14th.

11 to 12. DEMONSTRATIONS in the Swimming Bath and Gymnasium.