

SAPERE AUDE



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FIDE SED. CUI VIDE

E. Elliott
D.R.

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SCHOOL NOTES.

The name of our Magazine brings a feeling of sadness with it this term, for we must all think of the great and good Queen whom we have lost. When Her Imperial Majesty Queen Victoria passed away on Tuesday, January 22nd, it made a difference to every girl in the Empire, and we hope that we shall always worthily keep Victoria's memory green in the good work done by the girls, whose Magazine bears the name of a hard-working, conscientious, and brave woman—our much-loved Queen.

All the girls had an opportunity of being present in the Market Place to hear the Proclamation of the King, Edward VII., on Monday, January 28th. The Mayor read the Proclamation from the Town Hall steps, and the snow ceased for a few moments, while the strange, old-world language sounding in our unaccustomed ears bade us all acknowledge Edward the Seventh as King, and Emperor of India. More impressive was the stately and solemn ceremony of the following Saturday, when all who could by any means compass it turned out to pay their last honours to the Queen. The funeral procession, with its muffled drums and sombre mourners, concluded its march in the Parish Church, where a solemn Memorial Service was held. None of the girls who saw the sight will ever forget it.

IN MEMORIAM.

SARAH JANE LEES. Age 17.

Left School 1898. Died February 18, 1901.

The Sixth Form girls have this year again attended the University Extension Lectures given by Mr. Horsburgh, on "Six Statesmen of the 19th Century." Two girls presented themselves at the examination held January 26th, 1901, and both passed with distinction, Nellie Neild obtaining the prize offered for the best candidate. It will be remembered that Alice Sergeant obtained the prize last year. The book selected as a prize is Seeley's "Expansion of England."

A large party of girls, including one of our old girls (Gertrude Holden), went, under the care of Miss Kerly and Miss Bott, to see the "Merchant of Venice" produced in Manchester. All enjoyed the excursion, though the acting of Portia displeased some young critics. Most of the forms are taking this play in their year's work, and so found it particularly interesting.

The Ambulance Class of last term is now over, and a course of lectures on "Nursing" has taken its place. At the beginning of the term an examination was held by Dr. Coutts, of Waterfoot, and we were all busy putting up imaginary broken legs, ribs, and arms. The results of the examination were very satisfactory, all passing well except one. Dr. Wilkinson very kindly consented to continue his instructions, and we hope that we may pass the nursing examination with as great credit.

There are no changes amongst the Prefects this term, but the Monitresses are as follows:—Form V., G. Millington; IV., M. Letham and J. Lawton; L. IV., L. Neild and A. Wood; III., M. Maw and L. Wright; L. III., M. Schofield and E. Yates; II., B. Martland (half); I., I. Bodden (half).

We are glad to hear a good account of our many old pupils who are teaching in the town. We can count up to about twenty who have been with us for a year or so, and are now under the Board. Mary Whittaker has just passed her second Post Office examination in Manchester, making our third old pupil in the Civil Service. At the last examination held in London for women clerkships in the General Post Office, B. Fryer was placed first in the list of successful candidates. As this is an examination in which some nine hundred candidates compete for about thirty vacancies, we may well feel proud of the place taken by our old girl.

DEBATING SOCIETY.—Our first meeting was cancelled owing to the death of the Queen. The second meeting was held on March 14th, when Susan Lees proposed "That it is sometimes necessary to sacrifice truth to politeness." In the course of her speech S. C. Lees declared that, though truth was a matter of importance, politeness was absolutely essential. Olive Garfitt, in opposing, showed this to be quite unsound. A lively discussion followed, in which Miss Hugon and Miss Bott (chairman) joined. The meeting finally decided that it never could be necessary to sacrifice truth to politeness. It was decided that the next meeting should be held on April 24th.—M. E. ANDERTON, Secretary.

The Sewing Meetings will have to make up next term for their lack of frequency this term. We hope to hold a Bazaar for the Infirmary in September next. We are looking forward to getting a good deal of help from the old girls.

HANDBALL.—A new and exciting game has been taught the girls this term by the Drill Instructor of the Boys' School. As the name implies, the game resembles football, played with the hands instead of the feet. We are expecting some good matches next term between various forms.

Forms I. and II. have been very energetic this term in getting up sports among themselves. These were held on Wednesday, March 6th, in the Gymnasium, and consisted of about twelve events. Dorothy Wilde made a very energetic captain, and all seemed in very good practice. The high jump was very good, 2ft. 6in. being well cleared. The example of I. and II. is now to be followed by III. and Lower III., who hope to get up some sports next week.

Owing to the weather, Hockey has not flourished greatly this term, and only one rounders match has been played, in which L. IV. won a hard-fought victory over III., winning by two rounders. The daily play outside has much improved the general powers of running.

It only remains for the School Notes now to record the proceedings of the Literary Clubs and the Debating Society. The Third Form Story Club has held two meetings this term. The first, held on Monday, February 18th, was a Longfellow day, and a good many poems from Longfellow were recited or read. Miss Evington and two of her girls were invited to be present. At the next meeting four visitors were present—Miss Taylor and three girls from the Upper School. The Third Form had produced a story of school life, each girl writing a chapter. This proved very exciting, especially when the hero had the red ink spilt all over his head. Hilda Shaw recited "The One-hoss Shay;" M. and A. West sang "Fiddle and I;" and May Pickford played a piano solo. Then the meeting ended with a vote of thanks to Miss Platt, who has presented the Story Club library with a lovely edition of Stevenson's "Child's Garden of Verses." The club has bought "John Halifax."

H. SMETHURST, Secretary.

Two ordinary meetings of the H. G. S. Literary Society have been held, besides the open evening of which we give an account elsewhere. The first was held on February 27th. The subject was "Schoolgirl Life in the 18th and Early 19th Centuries." Extracts were read by members from standard novels relating to that time, such as "Rob Roy," "Villette," and "Vanity Fair." Miss Clark took the chair. The second meeting, March 13th, was on Mrs. Browning and her poems. Papers were read by Annie Tinker, and by Miss Bott and Miss Kerly; recitations were given by S. Lees, G. Millington, and M. Fletcher; and Miss Mitchell explained and played a "love song" on the piano in illustration of "Lady Geraldine's Courtship." Olive Garfitt, who was in the chair, and Mary Wareham also read illustrative extracts. Five new books have been put into the Literary Club library.—N. NEILD.

Three expeditions have been made to the Free Library this term. On Wednesday, March 6th, Miss Ellis kindly took some of the Upper School to see the Spring Exhibition of Pictures; and on Thursday, March 7th, Miss Kerly took Form III., and on the following day Forms IV., V., and VI. to inspect some books in the bookroom. Few of us have been in the storeroom before, and all found the time too short to look at all the books the Librarian had so kindly placed in readiness for us. We had no idea what a number of books (both literary and historical) Oldham possessed on the Elizabethan period.

At the Tennyson evening an exhibition of needlework, maps, brushwork, &c., that had been done during the term, was held in one of the classrooms. The Literary Club and the Third Form Story Club also displayed their libraries.

Lillian Neild has sent in a very good set of answers to the Search Competition, but, as she is the only competitor, no prize can be awarded.

WORK IN HULME.

BY THE RECTOR OF ST. MARK'S.

The Editor of your Magazine has asked me to tell you something about this parish, St. Mark's, Hulme, which some of you have so kindly helped with a gift of needlework. The most striking physical characteristics of the parish are a railway bridge, gasworks, and advertisement hoardings. From the mere mention of these facts you can imagine that the prevailing impression is not that of beauty. It is also a district of poor and struggling shops, and mean and often squalid streets. Unfortunately there is the sense, in the better and cleaner streets, of better days in the past. It is not the effect which is produced by some parts of the poorer parts of West London, where we frequently come across beautiful doorways and lovely fragments of carving which tell us that these houses were once the abodes of wealth and fashion. Even at the best the houses in St. Mark's could only have been the homes of clerks and workmen. About the fate of a noble house fallen upon evil days there lingers still an air of romance, which does not belong to one which was once the home of artisans earning a fair wage, but is now occupied by unskilled labourers whose employment is often of the most irregular character. All that we can claim is that once the district was respectable. The adjective "respectable" is useful and impressive, but it excites no emotions, and has nothing in it of romance. For years past the whole district has been decaying. As the slums in the centre of the city have been cleared away the inhabitants have crowded into the districts nearest to them, and have driven away the better class of the workers. The most striking instance of this process is the case of a street where there are some comparatively large houses. These houses were inhabited ten years ago by fairly well-to-do families, and, now, most of them are let off in single rooms. It is hard to believe that sixty years ago this district consisted of sand hills and pleasure gardens. Now it is covered with houses almost ruinous in condition. The mere fact that nearly five thousand people are crowded upon little more than 37 acres of land will serve to show how confined and overcrowded the district has become. Certainly improvements have taken place from a sanitary point of view, some close and stifling courts have been closed, and houses have been pulled down to admit more light and air. The immediate effect of this policy has been to raise the rents of the houses that remain, so that two or even three families sometimes live in a small cottage. This question of house rent is one of our greatest difficulties. It can be imagined how hard it must be for a labourer with small wages to pay a fourth away in rent. The people are not, as in some parts, in any sense vicious as a body, though there is a terrible and, it is to be feared, a growing amount of drunkenness. They seem to bear their troubles with great good humour and patience. Some of them, it is true, are extremely dejected and spiritless, but the prevailing characteristic among them is a mind of amiable helplessness. If any of them should for any reason come under good influences, it is morally certain that they will leave the district. Very rarely indeed are we permitted to have the advantage of any change that might be effected in the character of those for whom we work. We often feel it a duty to advise young people in whom we are interested to leave the immediate neighbourhood of St. Mark's Church, though it grieves us to part with those who might be a help to us. Our work is certain under such conditions to be monotonous and apparently discouraging.

The Church is a rather grim but still striking building in the City Road, which is one of the main thoroughfares from Manchester into Cheshire. At the back of the Church are the Schools now used by the School Board on week days, and by the Church on Sundays and all week-day evenings. For some months past we have held a "Men's Club" in the Schools, which has been fairly successful. A lady from Rusholme has most kindly given her services on Tuesday evenings, and has what we call "Happy Hours" for children. This has been most successful and encouraging in every way. We have, in addition, a Band of Hope, which meets every fortnight. There is, in addition, a Special Children's Service in Church every Wednesday evening. It will be seen that the wants of the children are provided for in several ways. Our most pressing need just now is for workers for young factory girls of the poorer class. The well-known firm of "Mackintosh" have works in the neighbourhood, and employ a large number of these girls. The Directors have appointed me chaplain, so as to enable me to help them and others in their employment. It is proposed as soon as possible to start a Club close to the works where they can come in the dinner hour and also spend their evenings. We have a deaconess working with us who devotes a great deal of attention to these aspects of this work, but we want others in addition. If my readers have friends in Manchester who can come one or two evenings in the week we hope they will use their influence with them on our behalf. Of course, like all poor parishes, we want money, but even more than that we need workers. In such a parish as St. Mark's we have to import all our workers, as we have very few at hand. We can promise that those who come to us will be welcome, and also that they will find that they will gain more than they give.

CONCERNING SPAIN.

Our Editor has asked me to write an article on Spain, and though I am not the hard-hearted person who could ever refuse her, still it is with a very sinking heart that I think what such a subject involves. However, I will take heart of grace and say what little I can of the little I have so far seen of Spain. Every Spaniard boasts, and justly boasts, of the beauty of his country, the brilliance of its sunshine, the blue of its sky, and, in fact, of every blessing which nature seems to have lavishly bestowed with the aim and intent of making a great and glorious nation. As I write, a brilliant November sun is flooding its light and heat on to the veranda where I sit, and showing up to the best advantage the glorious view that lies before me. Away down over the flat roofs of Barcelona I see, in the distance, the blue waters of the Mediterranean sparkling in the sunshine, and with hardly a ripple to mar the perfect serenity of the surface. In the harbour lies the gunboat "Pelayo," whose search lights at night brighten up the gloom of the surrounding hills, and remind all guilty Carlists that a very bright eye of Government is upon them. Speaking of Carlists, there has lately been considerable trouble here in consequence of risings of this party in opposition to the powers that be. The plan, apparently a very well-laid one, said to have been started by an Irish Roman Catholic, was to seize the shops of Calle Fernando VII, the richest street in Barcelona, and, by appropriating their money and goods, to enable the Carlists to buy over many to their side. For this end arms had been secretly stored in many parts of the city, but fortunately the authorities were on the alert, and anticipated any disturbance by the strict enforcement of military measures. The whole town is still under the closest surveillance; up and down the wide paseos officers prance on their beautiful long-tailed horses, making more glitter and show than would terrify all the Carlists in Spain. Detachments of infantry too are kept marching regularly through various parts of the town. What strikes one on seeing these troops is the vast difference between the officers and the rank and file. The former lounge along in their blazing uniforms, lazily puffing at a cigarillo, while the latter march in a hopeless disorderly way, poorly dressed, and with only *alpagatas* (the peasant canvas shoe, with sole of rope) bound on their bare feet. They seem, however, to inspire a good deal of awe, and so doubtless succeed in their purpose. I must say more about Barcelona itself, for really, as a city, it deserves a good deal of attention, both on account of its commercial importance, and also the beauty of its scenery and design. The Spaniard is always artistic, and to have a row of irregular houses down one of his main paseos or *calles* would be a terrible eye-sore to him. Consequently the architecture throughout the city is beautiful in design, although the arrangements for comfort, in the opinion of English people at least, are not always satisfactory. Each house consists of five or six

capacious pisos or flats. At the top of the house is the *terrado* or flat roof on which the washing is done, and the clothes hung out to dry; on account, however, of the height of the houses, all that passes on the *terrado* is entirely invisible to the passer by. I must not forget now to mention one of the chief features of Spanish life—the *café*. In the evening these beautiful buildings, lined on all sides with mirrors, are lighted up by innumerable electric lights, and the people drop in to sip coffee and lemonade, and listen to the band. In the summer small tables are placed out in the *paseos* under the trees, and here crowds sit enjoying the cool of the evening, and the strains of music wafted out to them through the open doors of the *café*. The society life of Barcelona, I have heard, much resembles that of Paris, the French Colony here having greatly influenced Spanish habits and morals. All who can afford to do so send their sons to Paris to be educated, and French is very generally spoken. Love for England, as it may very well be imagined, is by no means increased by this alliance.

I hope there is still room to say a little about the historical aspect of Barcelona, for this is indeed the most interesting under which it can be viewed. This town was formerly the capital of the old Kingdom of *Cataluña*, subject to the King of Spain, but enjoying many privileges, not least among these being the recognition of Catalan as a language. In time, however, *Cataluña* became merged into the Kingdom of Spain, and Catalan, in opposition to *Castellano* or true Spanish, was looked upon merely as a local dialect, spoken in the North by the lower classes and the peasantry. Most Spaniards here, however, speak both *Castellano* and Catalan, the latter being used very generally in trade and in the markets. The old peasant costume is still a little worn by the men, and is very picturesque. It consists of velvet knickerbockers tied at the knee, thick woollen stockings, white *alpagatas*, a large shawl hanging from the shoulder, and to top the whole, a red woollen jelly-bag cap on the close-shaven head. It is gradually falling out of use, however, and is seldom seen in the towns. The life and character of the sturdy northern peasants is very interesting. It is they now who are the sole source of life and stimulus in decaying Spain, and it is on them the grievous burden of taxation falls most heavily. To bring his produce to market the peasant must pay a large percentage to the *consumo* officials, whose small sheds or huts line the entrance roads to the town. To fight the battles of Spain the peasant must send his sons, most probably to die of fever or disease in Cuba or the Philippines, while the “blue blood” pay so many *pesetas* to find a substitute. Under all their grievances, however, the peasantry show a stolid patience and resignation to the yoke that is laid upon them. The recent risings throughout the country are signs, nevertheless, of a general discontent, and show that the most enduring patience can be tried too far.

Speaking of trying the patience, however, brings me to an abrupt conclusion, for I would not, on any account, impose on that of the readers of the “H.G.S. Victorian,” indulgent as I know them to be. It is, therefore, from a sense of duty that I say “*A Dios*,” although I feel how poor my attempt has been, and how feeble my words in doing credit to “*Los Españoles*,” who have played so great a part in English history, and who afford such an interesting study to all who visit their beautiful country.

A. SERGEANT.

THE TENNYSON EVENING.

As our elegant programme tells us, the Hulme Girls' Grammar School Literary and Musical Society held on Wednesday, February 13th, a “Tennyson Evening.” Those who were taking part in the same knew it long before by arduous practice, repetition, and rehearsal, not to speak of dressmaking and stage-managing. These made the members' lives very hard for some time before they appeared on the evening itself. Every girl had from one to four invitations for anyone whom she chose, and we were glad to see a good many old members among the guests. The programme began with Gower's “*Crossing the Bar*,” a part-song. In Memoriam, V.R. A good many other part-songs were in the programme, but this was the best sung and the sweetest. “*The Brook*” and “*Ring Out, Wild Bells*,” were also well given. Owing to illness, D. Lee and L. Rye were unable to take their parts, so Miss W. Mitchell, L.R.A.M., kindly played a beautiful violin solo, and was later followed by her pupil, C. Wilde, who, though a beginner, played very prettily and in good tune. Some lively pianoforte pieces, solos, and duets, were also included in the first part of the programme. These were played by E. Thackeray, M. E. Anderton, M. Hodgson, and M. Newton. In the recitations, O. Garfitt, H. Taylor, and M. Fletcher could be heard very well, and were

listened to with much interest by all, as was also Mary Schofield, who read the song from "Maud" which was to have been sung by L. Rye.

Of course, we had to have one of our famous Literary Club papers, and Nellie Neild, the secretary, gave a short estimate of Tennyson's poems. After tea and coffee to warm us we returned to the scenes from the "Princess," which, as we had been promised, were very pretty. Everyone spoke clearly, and Emilie Thackeray made an impassioned Princess Ida, sounding most enthusiastic in her love for learning. Lady Blanche and Lady Psyche (M. E. Anderton and M. Viner) looked quite natural in their pretty academic gowns, with learned books in their hands. S. C. Lees was well suited in her part of the prince. We must say that both G. Smith (Cyril) and M. Martland (Florian) seemed quite at home in their "disguises;" Melissa and the maidens were not more at ease than they. The two kings looked regal in their "ermine," and are to be congratulated on their dignity. Everyone was ready to give a hearty measure of applause when Mary Hanson had spoken the epilogue, which told the conclusion of the story.

THE HOME-COMING OF THE C.I.V.

London was en fête. From far beyond the confines of the city the people wended their way, eager and restless, yet jubilant. The "coster" and his donkey, the cabs and the omnibuses, filled the streets. The Underground Railway was crowded, and everything seemed bustle and confusion. Across the streets was hung almost every form and colour of bunting, business was suspended, and a universal holiday proclaimed; and those people who kept a diary wrote it down as a gala day, as indeed it was, for had not the people come out to welcome home their own—the City Imperial Volunteers? Disappointment at the non-arrival of the regiment on the Saturday had in no way damped the ardour of the people on the Monday, and they came in even denser throngs than before to greet their comrades and their friends.

But here they came, London's own, and we take a first glance as they appear along the line of route; we notice the change, the ruddy faces with which they left to the bronzed complexion of the seasoned soldier. It was a touching sight to see those who were lame from their wounds, and others who were as yet invalids riding in brakes in the procession, but sadder still to think of those who were missing from the ranks, and who had been left on the field of battle on a far-off land. Their names are blazoned on the roll of fame, for they laid down their lives for the Empire.

London welcomed her sons, and that the greeting was hearty no one could doubt who heard the ringing cheers which rent the air on the arrival of the contingent at Paddington Station. After a long march through the principal streets of London the men, headed by General Trotter, and their own leader, Colonel Mackinnon, were received by the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs on the steps of St Paul's. A short service then took place in the Cathedral, and afterwards all were entertained at the Royal Artillery Company's Ground, where a banquet was given in their honour.

E. WARDLE.

ST. JOHN AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION—AN EVOLUTION.

By a ST. JOHN NURSING SISTER.

Among the many beneficent organisations for the relief of the sick and suffering which have been brought to a successful issue during the reign of Victoria the Well-beloved, Ambulance will certainly deserve an honoured place. The Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem is the oldest Order in the world. It was instituted in the year 1009, a half-military, half-religious body, the members of which were called Knights Hospitallers, organised for the relief of the crusaders and pilgrims in their wars and journeys to the Holy Land. The Order came to be re-established in England in the early years of the 19th century, and received the Royal Charter from Queen Victoria in 1888. The King, then Prince of Wales, became the Grand Prior, and he has always taken a personal interest in all the workings of the Order. The first statute in the Charter of the Order is this, that it is "Generally for the encouragement and promotion of all works of humanity and charity, in the relief of sickness, distress, suffering, and danger, without distinction of race, class, or creed, and the extension of the great principle of the Order, *pro utilitate hominum.*"

The first time the Order of St. John took any active part in modern ambulance work was at the Red Cross International Conference held in Berlin in 1869. The Franco-German War

breaking out soon after, caused many members of the Order to enroll themselves in the British National Aid Society, formed for the purpose of succouring the wounded on both sides in that terrible campaign. At the head of these was Sir John Furley, the veteran ambulance worker, whose knowledge and whose powers of organisation and capacity for hard work have been ever since available wherever they were required. He had the honour of taking the first train loaded with food into Paris after the investment, and he had the equal honour of taking out to South Africa last year, nearly thirty years after, the first ambulance train built specially for the transport of the sick and wounded from the front down to the base hospitals. This was truly a *coupé de luxe*. Everything that knowledge and skill could do to minimise suffering and discomfort was most carefully carried out. It was then found that, in order to carry out this work effectually, the Society must be properly organised in time of peace. Those interested in the work came to think that the best way to prepare to render aid to the sick and wounded in war was to give help to the sufferers from the daily accidents of civil life, and, to make this possible, the St. John Ambulance Association came into existence about 1878. The work grew rapidly; centres were formed in most of the large towns as well as in the Metropolis; classes for men and for women came under instruction in first aid to the injured and nursing.

The number of certificates of efficiency issued up to the end of 1899 is 469,537. Medallions are given to those pupils who, having successfully passed examinations in first aid and nursing, submit themselves to a further re-examination in both subjects after an interval of at least twelve months; 60,689 of these have been issued. A *dépôt* was formed at St. John's Gate for the supply of all material required at the classes—bandages, handbooks, splints, diagrams, &c. The triangular bandage came much into use at this time. It was then, and is still, the only bandage used in first aid instruction, the idea being that it is more generally useful than any other. It can be used in almost every possible injury. It is easier of application, therefore more suitable for the use of non-professional hands, and it is easily obtained, the ordinary pocket handkerchief folded corner ways making a very good one. Men were taught the use of the stretcher, the proper method of placing an injured patient thereon, and, also a very important part, the proper method of lifting and carrying a loaded stretcher. To the uninitiated it is almost incredible to what a nicety this is done at the present time, and how vastly the distress and misery of being moved when hurt is reduced when it is done by men carefully trained to the work.

The Colonies have made considerable progress in ambulance work, New Zealand especially taking a very active interest in the matter. Several new branches have been lately formed. Most encouraging reports are coming in from Australia, Canada, West Indies, and South Africa, the last centre having been at work ever since the Zulu War of 1882. On the outbreak of the present war, large quantities of stores were ordered from St. John's Gate, and every preparation was made locally to take part in the work that was unfortunately inevitable. The practical outcome of all this work has been very abundantly shown now in South Africa by the number of St. John's men who volunteered for service as hospital orderlies. Nearly 1,800 men have gone out up to the present. Many, alas! will never return; seventy-five have died, mostly from enteric fever.

Many of these men have given up good appointments, and, what is perhaps harder, have given up a post of authority in the Ambulance Corps at home, and have gone out as privates in the rank and file of orderlies from sheer love of the work. In the words of Dr. Conan Doyle, "When the lancers and the scouts and other picturesque people ride in procession through London, have a thought for the sallow orderly who has also given of his best for his country. He is not a fancy man—you do not find *them* in enteric wards—but for solid work and quiet courage you will not beat him in all that gallant army." Dr. Conan Doyle himself went out in charge of one of those civil hospitals which were equipped and sent out by the munificence of a few good men with sufficiently long purses, who were keenly alive to the fearful strain suddenly put upon the military hospitals, and the desirability of supplementing the official means of succour for the sick and wounded.

Mention is frequently made of St. John's Gate in connection with the work of the St. John Ambulance Association, and it will be noticed that all its official communications are sent from there. It is really a "gate," in rather a slummy part of Clerkenwell, almost the only one of the kind now remaining in London. A portion of the inner brickwork (the outer work is stone) is very remarkable; it is a great delight to archaeologists. The Chancery of the

Order of St. John and the offices where the work of the Association is carried on and all its storerooms are here; it is said to be where the original gate-house of the Priory of the Order of St. John stood, the grounds belonging to them extending as far as St. John's Wood. Great interest has been aroused lately by excavations which have been made in the crypt of the Church of St. John, Clerkenwell, very near to St. John's Gate. Distinct traces have been found of the foundation of a round building, believed to be the original church belonging to the Order. The *Gentleman's Magazine* was originally published from an office at one side of the Gate. The magazine, until recently, bore on its title page a sketch of the old structure. Part of the building also had been used as a tavern in the time of Samuel Johnson; it was called "Ye Old Gate," and was said to be much frequented by him and by David Garrick. A chair used to be shown there for a long time called "Dr. Johnson's chair."

The St John Ambulance Brigade was formed in 1890. It consists of men and women qualified first aiders who are willing to enrol themselves into organised corps on volunteer lines, under strict discipline, wearing a prescribed uniform, willing to carry out all orders given them, go where they are sent and stay there as long as they are required, whatever the climatic conditions may be (whether their patients are collapsing from sunstroke or getting syncope from extreme cold), their duty being to care for those who come to grief in large crowds, whether from exhaustion or accident. They are now quite a recognised feature of all large gatherings, their stations are fixed by the police, and they are frequently most affectionately greeted by the London *gamin* as "Good old Amb'lince." Bank Holidays are field days with the Brigade, both in the metropolitan and provincial corps. The usual procedure is to form stations at those places where holiday-makers resort in large numbers. Quite a small field hospital goes out; it is always in charge of a medical officer, a waggon carrying tents, stretchers, blankets, ground sheets, haversacks, water bottles, hampers containing all necessaries for attending to patients, such as cotton wool, lint, bandages, antiseptics, sal volatile, &c., &c. The officers never find any difficulty in getting men to go out for duty on these occasions. Many of them are hard workers, to whom most people would consider the holiday to be very welcome. Perhaps they think change of occupation is as good as a rest. Nursing sisters are always sent out; there are usually two to four at each station, according to the number of men out—they may vary from 10 or 12 to nearly 40. There have been several stirring days in the Metropolis of late years; the last was that wonderful pageant—the passing of Victoria. The silent crowds! Who that saw them will ever forget? Standing for hours in a bitter east wind, every now and then a surge of movement would come like a tidal wave where the throng was the thickest, into which our men dive and, with almost superhuman effort, extricate some unfortunate human being, at the point of suffocation, less able than the others to stand the fearful wedging together; but, despite all the discomfort, and often nearly serious consequences, there was not a murmur. The day the C.I.V.'s returned, the crowds got beyond all control, and strained the powers of all who had anything to do with the handling of them almost beyond bearing. To the Ambulance Brigade it was a splendid day; they always like to come home with a good record! The recorded cases attended to were very few short of 2,000; those unrecorded must have been considerably more than double that number. There was no possibility of taking particulars. There were all sorts and conditions of patients—business men, delicate girls, large ladies, slim ladies, East End ladies, West End ladies, boys, volunteers, policemen, workmen, almost all of them suffering from "crush," which is quite distinct from a "faint." Generally, a lady who begins to gently scream when she is recovering can safely be left to herself; whilst some quiet-looking man or woman, saying nothing, may need great care to prevent a serious attack of syncope. Many women and men stand so long waiting—perhaps without proper food—that they collapse just at the supreme moment, which is very hard indeed. The station in a large crowd may be the waggon in a side street near by, or it may be a refuge, or a space kept clear by the police on the pavement, or some steps to a church or public building, or a warehouse kindly lent for the purpose, or a space in one of the Parks—they are many and various. And now, one last word. After all these examinations are over and the certificates are ours, we have still a great lesson to learn, and that is how little we know. The more our knowledge and the greater our experience, the closer we shall keep to the true limits of first aid.