

THE LINK

The Official Organ of the Humberstone Garden Suburb.

"NOT GREATER WEALTH. BUT SIMPLER PLEASURES."

No. 21.

DECEMBER, 1913.

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Editorial.

THE SCHOOL QUESTION.

It might be with some surprise that our little community suddenly saw heralded by means of those large red posters, the fact that the Education Authority had decided to give statutory notice of their decision to build new County Council Day Schools for the Parish of Humberstone, but we cannot conceive of this fact meeting with anything but the approval of our residents.

The existing school building is a very old one, badly lighted and poorly ventilated, equipped with old-fashioned furniture, and, until the recent change in the headship, the school was also very much behind the times in its methods of teaching. The large growth of the school population during the last four years, due to our development, added to other disabilities that of insufficient space.

It has been possible by the appointment of a school-master (and we congratulate him upon the marked change already made) to somewhat remedy the educational methods—by bringing the standard of education more in line with the requirements of the age—but the problem still remains of the inadequacy of the buildings affecting both the teaching staff and the scholars detrimentally, both as to their health and the opportunity of availing themselves of the altered methods of teaching. The badly-lighted and ill-ventilated buildings at present in use do not conduce to that mental aptitude required by the scholars if they are to avail themselves of the advantages that should accrue from enlightened teaching. Overcrowding is fair neither to teacher nor scholar. To the first it means overwork, due to the fact that though the numbers in classes grow to such proportions as to make proper supervision a physical impossibility, no relief can be got by the addition of another teacher to the staff, because the accommodation is so limited that additional classes would make it impossible to work at all; and, because of the necessity to combine three different standards in one class, and the consequent helplessness of the teacher, the brighter scholars are kept down to the level of the lowest.

Then the inadequacy of the present building and playground is immediately felt when one thinks of introducing any addition to the curriculum. No school, nowadays, should be without adequate playing space, school gardens, and facilities for teaching housewifery to the elder girls, and all these things are impossible with the present buildings. Overcrowded and ill-ventilated as they are, medical inspection is reduced to a farce; education is limited and confined and, in

an age when scholarship is becoming more and more a necessity in the race of life, it behoves us to give every encouragement that lies in our power to those in authority when they are willing to increase the facilities for obtaining a good education for our children.

The case for new school buildings being proved, the question arises as to how it is going to affect us financially, and as to whether there is no alternative to the large outlay required for entirely new buildings. It may be thought that satisfactory alterations and additions could be made to the present buildings, but to this course there seems to be grave objection. A large sum would be required to add a new wing, for which there is no space without encroaching upon the present playground, which in itself is now inadequate, and this sum would have to be found voluntarily; the drawback to which would be that after the money was expended, the building would still be the property of the Church Trustees, and subscribers would have no control over the money spent or any interest in the fabric erected, which would militate largely against voluntary subscriptions.

It is well to remember that we already bear our proportion of the education rate of the county. It is true the parish will have, in addition, to meet part of the expenditure upon the new building; but, so far as we ourselves are concerned, there will be an additional attraction for people to take up residence on our estate, and, most important of all, we desire that our children shall receive the best possible education under the best conditions. Therefore, we must wholeheartedly support the Education Authority in their efforts to provide new school buildings.

HUMBERSTONE AND DISTRICT SUPPLY ASSOCIATION LTD.—The Quarterly Meeting of members was held on Friday, November 14th, Mr. Taylor presiding over a good attendance. The balance sheet, showing trade receipts £629 15s. 7½d., and balance profit £41 5s. 6d., together with the committee's report and recommendation of a dividend of 1s. 3d. was moved by the Secretary, discussed by the members, and adopted. Messrs. J. S. Wilford, E. G. Meekins, and H. Grocock were elected to serve on the committee for the next twelve months. The Chairman announced that tickets of membership had now been issued to all members qualified for same, and that these must be produced when voting upon any business connected with the Association.

MONTHLY MEETING.—On Thursday, November 20th, the Monthly Meeting was held in the Assembly Room, Mr. E. T. Groome presiding. Mr. J. S. Wilford gave the committee's report; the last pair of houses are nearing completion, and a start is being made on the small playground, which is being turned into a tennis ground, the swings and bumpers being removed to the larger playground at the bottom of the estate. Mr. Hibbett reported attending a District Conference at Coalville on October 25th, when a paper was read on "The Possibilities of Co-operation." Mr. R. Scott gave the report of the Estate Council, announcing that the Institute is now open on Friday nights for games, fee one penny, and that the Co-partnership Extension League are forming a Whist League, in connection with which we are invited to form a team. Some remarks were made in general business *re* the state of the ash path in Stein Lane, to which the Secretary promised to attend.

Items of Interest.

The Cricket Secretary writes:—"We are pleased the General Committee have taken the ground in hand and are making what promises to be a very great improvement—for which we wish to thank them."

* * *

Apropos of the above, a resident drew our attention the other day to the bright prospects—if there is anything in the theory of heredity—awaiting the Cricket Club in the future, as evidenced by a study of the birth-rate during the last few months. Perhaps it is this fact which has prompted the General Committee to extend! There's foresight!

* * *

"Cannot something be done," asks a tenant, "to curb the animal spirits of certain of our young folks when meetings are in progress in the Assembly Room or Institute?"

* * *

It is interesting to know the Anchor Tenants have formed a team to play in the Co-partnership Whist League. They journey to Sileby on November 29th to play their first match with the Excelsior Boot Works. We wish them success.

* * *

The sixteen players who took part in the Golf Tournament on November 15th may not be quite clear as to who was the winner; but all are agreed that the function was a success from a social point of view.

* * *

Residents have become quite accustomed to seeing search parties, armed with sticks or "stutting" nets and with anxious expressions on their faces, looking for lost balls or attempting to rescue them from watery graves—for is it not proverbial that the Englishman takes his pleasures sadly? We welcomed a diversion from the usual routine the other day, however, when we saw an ingenious golfer affectionately combing the long grass with a garden rake.

* * *

The conductor of the Choral Society asks for a few more contraltos and sopranos. Any lady who can oblige will be heartily welcomed at the Assembly Room on Friday nights.

* * *

The festive season comes apace, and inquiries are rife as to the intentions of our old friends the Cornstalks and K-nuts.

Ill fares the land,
To hastening ills a prey,
When Cornstalks wither
And K-nuts decay.

CHORAL SOCIETY.—The Concert on Saturday evening, December 13th, should be of more than usual interest to our residents, as it marks the first public appearance of our new Choral Society. We hope that our friends will turn up in good numbers, and we shall endeavour to show that there is something else "high sounding" about our organisation, besides its name. On Sunday evening, December 21st, a Christmas Musical Service will be given by the Choral Society in the Assembly Rooms, commencing at 6.30. A collection will be taken, and the proceeds handed over to the Estate Council to help the Children's Xmas Treat Fund.—C.H.G.

Estate Council Report.

On October 30th, the Rev. J. Wallace Watts—who is an authority on mediæval architecture—gave a most interesting and instructive lecture on "Ancient Churches and the Norman Period in English History." The lecture was illustrated with a number of fine slides, and at the close Mr. Watts answered questions.

Messrs. Essex, of banjo fame, brought a party to entertain us on November 1st. On the 6th, Mr. T. Rowlett gave a very interesting and profitable talk on the winter's work in the garden, giving practical lessons on pruning, and afterwards answering questions.

On November 8th, the party brought by Mr. Vass gave a very good concert, which was poorly attended. The Council hope that the residents will show their appreciation of this branch of their work by turning up in greater numbers, as it is rather disheartening for the talented people who come to entertain us—often at inconvenience to themselves—to find so small an audience.

The Concert on November 15th, held in the Chapel—by kind permission—was a great success. Mr. Wykes' Instrumental Quartette ably rendering classical music, notably a selection from Faust. The Brothers Wykes also sang several duets. Miss B. Haddon proved a very good substitute for Miss Wells, and Mr. Green is too well known to need any praise of ours. The British United Quartette also sang. THE LINK was "too previous" in announcing last month that the proceeds of this concert were to go to the Welsh Relief Fund, as the Council decided otherwise.

The Council are very sorry to have to state that owing to the bad behaviour of some of the children and lack of interest on the part of parents, Miss M. Meekins has been compelled to discontinue the Gymnasium Class, as, without the aid of a few adults she finds it impossible to maintain order. It seems a pity that a class which should prove so beneficial to the children should have to be discontinued for such a cause.

Coming Events.

Dec. 6th (Saturday).—Concert by Miss Meekins and Party.

„ 11th (Thursday).—Ladies' "At Home." Speaker, Mr. Thos. Adcock.

„ 13th (Saturday).—Choral Society's First Concert.

„ 18th (Thursday).—Limelight Lecture, "The Life and Work of Robert Owen," by Mr. Amos Mann.

„ 20th (Saturday).—See Notice Board.

„ 21st (Sunday).—Christmas Musical Service by Choral Society, in Assembly Room, 6.30.

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A Holiday in Paris.

A few years ago a holiday on the Continent was only to be thought of by the comparatively well-to-do. Nowadays, with cheap and fast excursions and comfortably-appointed steamers, it is well within reach of the average working man, and is every year growing more popular. And deservedly so, for while you don't return, perhaps, with your face tanned by the seaside sun and air, you will have gained food for thought for many months to come—there is nothing like a sojourn in a foreign city to broaden one's ideas and outlook on life.

Take a trip to Paris, for instance; the city teems with historical associations familiar to every Englishman, and the journey may be broken at Dieppe, a typical French watering place, or Rouen, with its memories of Joan of Arc and famous Cathedral. It is worth something to be able to study the habits and temperament of the volatile Frenchpeople.

To see Paris *en fete*, the 14th and 15th of July is the time—the national holiday. The streets and boulevards are all gaily decorated, and throughout the night are crowded with dancers. Traffic and everything else must give place to the merriment, and the music varies from a cracked gramophone in the meaner café to an elaborate band in a specially erected bandstand provided by the wealthier companies. Everyone seems happy and without a single care. Yet it was the same Frenchmen who tore massive iron railings down, overturned and fired a huge motor-bus, killed and wounded a number of gendarmes, and caused a tremendous amount of destruction to property, to show their displeasure at the execution of Señor Ferrar.

To see the laughing and vivacious women in the Central Market in the early morning—where the succulent snail and dainty frog may be seen on sale—one would hardly believe that it was a body of these happy market women who marched to Versailles and demanded the heads of Louis XVI. and Marie Antoinette.

Whatever one's tastes or inclinations they may be gratified in Paris. Those who are interested in Church architecture will be in their element. There are over eighty churches, including the Cathedral of Notre Dame, probably the finest example of Gothic architecture in existence—a full day may be profitably spent here. Then the fashionable Church of the Madeleine, with its beautiful music; Sainte Chapelle, a wonderful old church with very fine stained glass windows—now a lost art. The Church of St. Etienne du Mont contains the elaborately gilded Tomb of Ste. Genevieve, the patron Sainte of Paris, where may be seen the crutches left by a number of cripples who have been cured of their infirmities by a visit to the shrine of the good lady.

The art student will find all he desires in the Louvre, once the residence of the Kings of France, now containing the largest and finest collection of objects of art. To walk through the galleries without stopping to admire the various exhibits occupies two hours, so the tourist cannot do more than notice some of the principal treasures—there are simply acres of priceless pictures by all the old and modern masters.

The Luxembourg Palace, Museum, and Gardens, are well worth a visit, and are close by the Pantheon, beneath which one may see the last resting place of Zola, Carnac, Victor Hugo, Voltaire, Gambetta, and many other illustrious Frenchmen. Near to is the

Sorbonne or Academy of Paris, where anyone may drop in and listen to a lecture by a professor of world-wide reputation. (Paris is the one city in the world where the higher education is practically free, and one may study almost any subject, from Science to Chinese.) This is in the centre of the Latin quarter, where students from all over the globe congregate, and the miserable lodgings occupied by the majority are in marked contrast to the luxurious quarters of our own University students.

One of the most impressive sights is the Tomb of Napoleon. The sarcophagus, surrounded by tattered flags, is placed below the floor level, the architects' idea being that anyone viewing the tomb must bow, and by a clever arrangement of lighting, the sun appears to be shining brightly even on the dulllest day.

The Gobelin Tapestry Factory is very interesting, as is also the Sevres Porcelain Factory. Both are Government institutions, and the fact that it takes twelve months to weave a square yard of tapestry proves that the commercial spirit has not entered into these industries. The men may be seen actually at work in each case. The products are never sold, but are made for State gifts to Royalty and foreign Courts. At the present time they are engaged on a service at Sevres for presentation to King George, consisting of between 700 and 800 pieces, a number being finished and on view.

There are some lovely excursions just outside the City—St. Cloud, by river steamer; the Bois de Boulogne by Metropolitan Railway; Versailles, by tramcar, with the wonderful fountains and gardens, the Grand Trianon, Grand Palace built by Louis XVI. at a cost of over £40,000,000, taking twenty years to finish.

If it is pleasure alone one is seeking, the "Gay City" is the spot. For a real rollicking night's amusement one has only to visit a café frequented by students in the Latin Quarter, or a night café in the Montmartre district. The fun commences something after 11 p.m., and ceases when every one has had enough—there is no turning out time. If the English "take their pleasures sadly" our neighbours certainly do not. There is a seamy side to all this, of course, but we must allow for the different temperament and moral training of the Frenchman. It is a fact that in the dancing halls and cabarets of doubtful reputation, the majority of frequenters are not natives. A holiday in Paris may be as good or bad as each individual likes to make it.

Of course if one can speak French it is a big advantage, but by no means necessary. After the extra travelling expenses, it is cheaper than English seaside resorts if one is content to dine at the French workmen's cafés, instead of the "English spoken" places that are advertised. As an instance, a four course dinner may be had for one franc (9½d.), consisting of the choice of numerous dishes, serviette, unlimited bread, and bottle of red or white wine, and the chef is an artist, too—such cannot be had even in Leicester for the money. Good hotel accommodation may be had for about 5s. per day; this includes an English breakfast and dinner at 7 p.m., the mid-day meal must be taken out. Travelling from Leicester and back would cost £2 10s. There are excellent facilities for getting about Paris—Seine steamers, 1d. inside and 2d. outside the city; Metro., or Underground, a uniform charge of 1½d., any station. Plenty of motor and horse busses and trams in all directions.

I have only mentioned a few places that came to mind at time of writing. To briefly talk of all the interesting sights would fill the LINK for many months. One could keep on extolling the desirability of Paris for the holiday maker indefinitely; the fact that "all the world and his wife" goes proves it. Why not a party from the Estate next year?

T. E. J.

Garden Notes.

Several complaints of potato disease after storing have come to notice. If this disease is in the tubers at the time of lifting it usually shows itself six or eight weeks after, hence the necessity of careful sorting over at this time of the year. If any show signs of chits they should be rubbed off unless required for seed, which may be chosen at the same time; these should be even-sized tubers, about the size of a hen's egg, with bold crowns. Place in a box with the crowns upwards and expose to the light, taking care not to let them get frozen.

Any old garden light placed over a few plants, of violas, violets, or Christmas roses, may be expected to give a few blooms for Christmas and winter decoration.

As soon as frosty weather sets in an opportunity may be taken to barrow manure on to vacant plots where required.

All fresh manure should be neatly stacked into a heap, trampled firm, and covered over with about six inches of soil; this will keep in the ammonia and make the heap much more valuable.

T. R.

PEST No. 5.—THE CELERY FLY.

There are few rows of celery on the Estate that are not infested with the fly. It is a small brown insect about one-eighth inch long, and is also found on parsnips and parsley. The female deposits her eggs in the tissue of the leaves, and in a few days the maggots are hatched, which soon cause complete decay and thus hinder the nutrition of the plant. There are several generations annually. The last grubs hatched drop into the soil and there turn into pupæ, remaining in the ground until the spring, when they turn into the fly again. There is no remedy only burning once the fly has been on the plant. To dust the plant early with equal parts of soot and slaked lime, or spraying with paraffin and soap emulsion prevents the eggs being deposited. Bury the soil deeply and dig in a fumigant after lifting an infected row.

T.E.J.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING.—The Annual Meeting was held in the Schoolroom on Thursday, November 6th. Present: Mr. F. G. Fowler (chairman), Councillors Underwood, Rouse, Hibbett, and Taylor. Very little interest was manifested in the meeting, only three parishioners, in addition to the above, being present. Minutes of last meeting having been read, and signed by the Chairman, it was resolved to ask the overseers for the sum of £44 to defray the expenses connected with the lighting of the parish; this is equal to a 4d. rate, being an increase of 1d. as compared with last rate; this is due to the cost of putting up three additional standards on our estate.

CHURCH OF CHRIST, HUMBERSTONE GARDEN SUBURB.

In connection with the above, during December, a special series of Addresses will be delivered (D.V.) in the Meeting-house on Lord's Days at 6.30 p.m. The subjects and speakers as follows:—

	Speakers.	Subject.
Dec. 7.	Mr. A. BROWN	Christ, the manifestation of the Father.
Dec. 14.	Mr. A. BIRKETT	Christ, the world's Redeemer.
Dec. 21.	Mr. S. BIRKETT	Christ, the great High Priest.
Dec. 28.	Mr. H. LANGTON	Christ, the Kings of kings.

The Church is desirous that YOU should hear the above. Do not hesitate; COME; these meetings will be specially bright.

Church of Christ Lord's Day School HUMBERSTONE GARDEN SUBURB.

A Primary School, arranged on Kindergarten lines, has been inaugurated by the staff of the above.

The little ones meet together in the Assembly Room at 2.45 p.m. Lord's Day for an hour. Every possible convenience for their health and comfort is considered and arranged by a capable staff of teachers.

The teachers want to meet all children from three to seven years of age.

Parents, send them next Sunday, they will clamour to come the following.

LADIES' "AT HOME."—The fortnightly Ladies' "At Homes" are proving a decided success. The first one on October 30th was fairly well attended, and after tea had been handed round and partaken of, amidst the customary chat, Mrs. Taylor read from "The Soul Market" one of Miss Malvery's experiences of life in a fashionable milliner's establishment in London. On November 13th, Mrs. Dr. Bond came up and spoke on "Recreation," emphasising the need for women to take an interest in the live questions of the day, and so prepare themselves for making a decision when the time for action arrives. Mrs. Bond was accompanied by Miss Nora Gimson, who recited "The Ink-pot" and "The Fortune" in a very pleasing manner. Mrs. Stanion gave a selection on the pianoforte while tea was being dispensed, and the sweet old English duet, "The Maybell and the Flowers," was tastefully rendered by Mrs. Purdy and Mrs. Stanion. A delightful afternoon was pronounced by most of those present as "The best ever held."

FELLOWSHIP MEETING.—At these meetings, held on Sunday evenings in the Assembly Room, addresses have been delivered since the re-opening by Messrs. J. S. Wilford, Bruce Ellesmere, Tomblin, Elliot, Bulliver and Keywood. Mrs. Stanion and Mr. T. Wilford have kindly acted as accompanists. As was the case last winter, they are meeting the needs of residents desiring to unite in a bright service of an undenominational character.

A SHORTBREAD RECIPE.—Rub $2\frac{1}{2}$ ozs. of butter (or margarine) into $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. of flour, add 1 oz. of castor sugar and mix well together. Flour a board and turn the paste on to it, and knead it well; then roll out pretty thinly and cut into oval shapes. Place on a greased baking tin, and bake a pale brown.—F. VASS.

Anniversary Dinner of Co-partnership Tenants Ltd.

SIX YEARS OF RAPID PROGRESS.

The sixth Anniversary Dinner of the Garden Suburb Societies in federation with Co-partnership Tenants Ltd., was held on Thursday, the 20th inst., at the Connaught Rooms, London, W.C., when Mr. Leopold de Rothschild presided, supported by the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Liverpool, the Mayor of Birkenhead, the Rt. Hon. Charles Booth, and other distinguished ladies and gentlemen.

After the loyal toasts, that of the Co-partnership in Housing Movement was proposed by the Lord Mayor of Liverpool, and responded to by Mr. James Moon, J.P., Mayor of Birkenhead, and Mr. Henry Vivian, J.P., whose associations with the Humberstone Garden Suburb lent special interest to his speech.

Mr. Henry Vivian, in responding to the toast of Co-partnership Tenants Ltd., said they had every reason to be satisfied with the confidence of the public in their enterprise and the progress made. It was six years since he invited Mr. F. Litchfield to become the Secretary of the Society which he was then forming. They began with the modest capital of a few hundred pounds, an office about 6 feet by 12 feet, and one employee. They had persevered and built up their movement until they employed upwards of a thousand men and had built a million and a quarter pounds' worth of property. The Society was now engaged in developing a dozen different residential estates, on which they had erected and let over 3,000 houses, while another 7,000 were to be built. When these were complete they would have spent over £3,000,000. The Co-partnership Tenants Ltd. had never failed in their obligation to their investors for a single day, and had regularly declared a 5 per cent. dividend on shares, at the same time building a satisfactory reserve fund. Whilst the Co-partnership Tenants Ltd. were proud of business success they claimed that good security and a fair return to investors were harmonised with the public good. They held very strongly that public utility, beauty and health need not conflict with sound business principles; indeed, sound business principles were made more possible where, in the development of residential estates, regard was had for these three considerations. Capitalists and men of enterprise must take a longer view than they had been accustomed to if permanent, as against temporary and fleeting prosperity, was to be secured. All methods which destroyed health and crushed imagination and love of order were, in the long run, wasteful in productive power. Nationally, we were moving in a vicious circle in many social and economic questions. We were told people could not pay an economic rent for a decent healthily situated home, because their wages would not enable them to pay an economic rent, because their conditions prevented them from being mentally and physically able to earn a larger wage. So they went round the circle of bad uneconomic conditions. The Co-partnership and other Garden Suburbs had demonstrated beyond doubt that a much healthier and more efficient life of the individual was possible with security and a fair return to the capital involved. Speaking of the Liverpool Garden Suburb, the Building Surveyor has said that "the beneficial effect on the character and well-

being of the people who live in such surroundings, must be incalculable." The Medical Officers of Health wherever such Suburbs were developing confirmed this view. The death rates are brought down to the minimum possible; above all, they saw on these Suburbs the full life-saving effect in the case of the children. The infant mortality on the Hampstead Garden Suburb was about 11 per 1,000, and even lower in the case of the Harborne Garden Suburb, whilst for the country it was 95 per 1,000, and for the crowded parts of the big towns it went up to somewhere about double 95. The earning power of those brought up in the Garden Suburbs from birth, if the relative improvements shown in the death rates, even approximately hold good throughout life, must be increased very greatly. One good feature in connection with the Co-partnership Estates was that continuous corporate control prevented the property from degenerating as house property often did, and then the value of the security was kept up. Public confidence in the Co-partnership enterprise was increased with the growth of the business, and they have raised more capital for their estates during the past twelve months than they had raised in any preceding year. They felt sure that that good condition of things would continue, and that capital for the future would be forthcoming as it had been in the past. The movement was one in which men and women of all political parties could readily join, and the larger it becomes the more influential will its example be in stimulating others to go and do otherwise or improve.

ADULT SCHOOL.—During the past month the Adult School has been going along steadily under Mr. Keywood's leadership. The life and work of St. Paul has been under review. On one Sunday a fellow-member in Mr. Stanion introduced an interesting talk; and on the 9th and 16th, Mr. C. S. Stanion came from town to speak on "Christianity and Paganism." His remarks were interesting by reason of their unorthodoxy and were productive of an animated discussion.

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Letters to the Editor.

CORRESPONDENCE INVITED.

A VISIT TO PENKHULL.

To the Editor,

Sir,—Having recently visited Penkhull Garden Village, Stoke-on-Trent, I thought that perhaps a few words on the subject might not be out of place. I was struck first of all by the very obvious fact that the houses were much closer together than on our Estate, the gardens being quite 50 per cent. smaller, on an average, than ours (probably that is within the mark). Then again, I was not favourably impressed by the external appearance of the buildings; they are officially described as "picturesque," but I should be inclined to substitute "bizarre"; for they certainly looked odd to me, especially about the roofs (though, of course, I don't pretend to be an architect). The windows were all composed of a multitude of little panes, which I mentally contrasted with the spacious bays at Humberstone.

While looking round for an empty house to explore, I made enquiries as to the "domestic affairs" of Penkhull. It seems that they have a "Social Committee," equivalent to our Estate Council, and they also have outdoor games similar to ours, with the addition of lawn-tennis. But a humble "tanner" secures our pleasures for a season, whereas at Penkhull the subscription is several shillings. Rents and rates are tremendously higher than ours, e.g., a house of a type somewhat resembling ours at 7s. 3d. inclusive, amounts there to about 10s. (including rates, which are paid separately). The rates are those of Stoke-on-Trent, which are much higher than Leicester's.

Of course, to be fair, I must concede Penkhull Garden Village certain advantages over us. One great thing is that it is very close to two car routes (though "penny-a-mile" fares are in force) and quite in touch with the Potteries and Newcastle-under-Lyme. Then, also, there is a good and cheap supply of electric light, and they have w.c.'s and adequate sewerage. The site, too, is

reputed to be exceptionally healthy (not that ours is behind-hand in that respect), being on a very high hill. That hill, though, is rather *too* high for my liking; our own hills are very unfriendly-looking to cyclists, but Penkhull Hill is incomparably steeper.

However, in spite of the advantages I have mentioned, I am inclined to think that the disadvantages are more serious, when one comes to consider the high payments, smaller gardens, and the sooty appearance (characteristic of the Potteries); though anyone who has been about the Pottery towns at all will readily agree that Penkhull is a vast improvement on the conditions there.

The interior construction of the houses appeared to me to be much inferior to the style in vogue on this Estate, though the fittings were in many cases much more elaborate. There seemed to be a tendency to spoil what would have been ample space for one good room by making two of it—two cramped, awkward little rooms. The doors, too, were not dealt with so sensibly as at Humberstone; in some instances, they seemed to be absolutely asking for draughts. Altogether, the style was, as I have said, greatly inferior to that of Humberstone, in my opinion. Some of the houses, so far as I could see, had no w.c. outside the house at all, though there was one upstairs. The houses are seemingly built according to a pre-arranged and unalterable plan, without any consultation of prospective tenants' views on minor details; indeed, there would seem to be no "prospective tenants," for the new houses all had "To Let" notices up, and were advertised outside the estate office. I expected to find Penkhull "countrified" like our own Garden Suburb, but as a matter of fact it is built continuously with older property on the Trentham Road, Stoke, and everywhere one gets the feeling that one is "in town." The otherwise very nice view is marred by the smoke of by no means remote "pot-bank" chimneys. I left Penkhull firmly convinced that Humberstone Garden Suburb need not be afraid of comparisons.—Yours truly,
"Valcroft," October, 1913.

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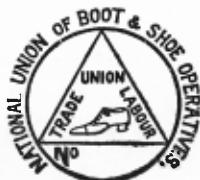
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