

Friends' School and Workhouse at Clerkenwell and Islington.

The following account of the above is extracted from a somewhat rare work entitled *Pietas Londinensis : the History, Design, and Present State of the various Public Charities in and near London.* . . . By A. Highmore, Esq. London, Richard Phillips, Bridge-street, 1810, pp. 314-316.

It will be remembered that this institution, so far as the educational design of the charity was concerned, was the pioneer of Friends' School at Croydon, and now at Saffron Walden.

JOSEPH J. GREEN.

“ In Bridewell-walk, Clerkenwell, is a burial-ground of inconsiderable size, and near it the remains of the Quakers' Workhouse, which the 'New View of London' says was founded about the year 1692¹ for the maintenance of fifty decayed people of their persuasion, who were allowed lodging and diet, and employed in their several professions by the governors. It has fallen into decay many years past, and what remains is let to poor occupants at very low rents. According to Maitland, it supported eighteen old men and sixty children, who had 5l. apprentice fee. The same institution exists in a new and most commodious building in the Goswell-street-road, near Islington ; the house was erected about the year 1786, on a large square of ground belonging to the Brewers' Company, which is held by the institution for 50l., at the rate of 16l. a year for the first ninety years, and the remainder subject to an increase of 34l. a year. It is used as a meeting which is held monthly on a Friday morning, and for the purpose of a charity school. Apartments are provided in a neat house facing it for twelve men and twelve women, being poor and of the Society of Friends. The number of boys and girls are not limited. Six different meetings in London, together with some legacies and voluntary contributions, support the charity and provide rewards for those females who preserve the places obtained for them, which are 30s. for the first, and 40s. for the second and third years ; if they behave with propriety they are allowed 40l. as a marriage portion, and 20l. to the boys.

“ The institution gives 10l. and the meeting who sends the boy 15l. as apprentice-fees. The house, meeting, school, apartments and stairs are as white and clean as brushes and industry will make them. The ceilings are remarkably high, and the windows large, consequently the rooms are perfectly dry and well aired ; the outside has the appearance of a villa, surrounded as it is by pleasure-grounds, gardens, and trees.

“ There are now in the house about four old persons, besides fifteen boys and fifteen girls, who are taught their principles of religion, reading, writing, and accompts, to fit them for trade.”

¹ The actual date was 1702.