

Indies has often been quoted. Mention is made of George Fox and other prominent Friends, their health and whereabouts. Then in the last quarter of the letter she comes to the real occasion for it.

Deare freind my husband desireth thee to acquaint Margaret Reynolds that he would have her son to come home, Anthony being dead, we have need of one; and if he cometh not he intendeth to have another in his stead and not to receive him againe. It is about three months agoe since our maid and Antony¹ dyed. I think here is not now much danger, soe farewell, my husbands love is to thee and Margaret my dear love salluteth all Friends that way. In haste I rest Thy sure Friend Esther Biddle.

It is a pleasant thought that the site of Thomas and Esther Biddle's home in Old Change, burnt over again in 1940, now lies in the middle of the permanent garden by St. Paul's.

LYDIA L. RICKMAN

Recent Publications

Through a City Archway: The Story of Allen & Hanburys, 1715-1954. By Desmond Chapman-Huston and Ernest C. Cripps. London: John Murray, 1954. Pp. xv, 326. 25s.

Readers familiar with Ernest Cripps' history of Allen & Hanburys, published in 1927 under the title *Plough Court*, will welcome a larger and more comprehensive history by him and Desmond Chapman-Huston, quite as enjoyable as the former book. The new volume, *Through a City Archway*, not only brings the story up to date (including a graphic description of air raid damage in the second world war), but fills in the earlier period with new material formerly unavailable.

The book is beautifully produced and a pleasure to handle: paper print and binding are all good, and about fifty illustrations add considerably to its interest. Many of these are portraits of characters closely connected with the firm.

¹ Friends Registers record both of these deaths of plague, Anthony Garnet and "Biddle, Thomas, servant to, named Elizabeth." Their son Daniel died that same summer, but whether of plague or not is not stated. He was born 1st January, 1661. His mother as well as his father is on Besse's list of two hundred and eighty Friends crowded into Newgate during December, January and February of that year. One is left to wonder whether Esther was released before his birth or snatched away shortly after or even whether he was born in prison.

The history is divided into four sections: Foundation (The Bevan Period), Expansion (The Allen Period), Consolidation (The Hanbury Period) and Realization (The Modern Period). Social, technical and religious history are woven together, finding embodiment in many live biographical portraits of men and women whose quality of character matched their outstanding ability. "Five Fellows of the Royal Society were trained in the old Plough Court Pharmacy and a sixth, Luke Howard, was associated with it for a short period."

Striking changes are traced in the course of this history. A chapter on transport shows the development from packhorse to motor lorry, and this is paralleled by the change from polypharmacy to the synthetic manufacture of pure drugs, vitamins and hormones, and the production of antibiotics like penicillin.

Until the mid-Victorian era Allen & Hanburys was primarily a Quaker concern, and the first two thirds of the book are, therefore, a study in Quaker history comparable to Arthur Raistrick's *Dynasty of Ironfounders*. The studies of the outstanding figures are by no means confined to their business interests. Silvanus, Timothy and Joseph Gurney Bevan each receive a chapter, and William Allen is given 84 pages in which many of his multitudinous concerns are vividly described. This is, in fact, the best study of William Allen in a short compass that has yet been written, and it includes the fine tribute, "few Englishmen in any station have lived as useful, varied, devoted and influential a life as did William Allen." Five generations of Hanburys follow, and the fine traditions of the firm are maintained in them. In addition the book is enriched by pen and often picture portraits of many others such as Luke Howard, William Cookworthy and John T. Barry.

A good deal of interesting material, much of it from the firm's letter books, is here printed for the first time, and the appendices occupying over 30 pages are specially valuable containing, for example, original letters to William Allen from Sir Humphrey Davy, John Dalton, and S. T. Coleridge, the syllabus of William Allen's lecture courses, and a number of orders placed with the firm at different periods showing the extraordinary variety of transactions in which they were involved.

Minor corrections may be noted. On page 50 there is reference to the abolition of "the slave trade", where "slavery" is intended since the reference is to 1833, not 1807. On page 71, Joseph Fox is referred to as a Quaker. In spite of his name, it appears that he was never a Friend, and probably was a Baptist. On pages 107-108, referring to Friends' disapproval of William Allen's third marriage, the statement is made that "even second marriages were not generally approved by Quakers." That there was strong disapproval of William Allen's marriage to Grizell Birkbeck is clear (see *Journal F.H.S.*, xviii, 29f. and xix 33f.); but this was a particular case and there were particular reasons. Friends generally had accepted the rightness of second marriages since the seventeenth century, and the Book of Discipline in William Allen's lifetime only advised against "very early proceedings in regard to marriage after the death of husband or wife."

L. HUGH DONCASTER

London to Philadelphia. By Caroline C. Graveson. London: Bannisdale Press, 1954. Pp. 272. 7s. 6d.

Caroline Graveson has followed up her admirable historical novel *The Farthing Family* (1950) with an equally successful book, at once a sequel and an independent work, covering the years 1666-1689. It is much more firmly set in the contemporary scene than its predecessor, where historical events formed a backcloth, vivid, but distinct from the story. Here fact and fiction are much more closely, effectively and excitingly interwoven. Ellis Hookes, Ellwood and Upperside Monthly Meeting, the Six Weeks Meeting, the Penn-Meade trial, the saintly Isaac Penington—these are but few of the folk, events and institutions that are re-enacted through an historian's as well as a novelist's imagination. There has obviously been a vast amount of research, yet it never obtrudes: Caroline Graveson teaches subtly, with none of the heavy didacticism which mars the novels of, shall we say, Disraeli.

If there is a weakness in the novel it is that, to follow the fortunes of her growing number of characters travelling in this country and oversea, Caroline Graveson has had recourse to that time-honoured device, the letter. Her narrative style is so powerful and compelling that it becomes a trifle disappointing to follow events thus at second-hand, and in Chapter 21 and onwards it tends to mar the structure, slowing down the movement and the reader's interest, so that the Toleration Act seems an appendix rather than a climax.

One or two small anachronisms, slips and misprints have crept in—John Farthing (p. 17) should be William; the style Gracechurch Street M.M. (p. 109, 186) was not adopted till 1742; the pronouncement, "Judges must not be coerced" (p. 127) should read Juries; Bristol Q.M. (p. 231) should read Two-Weeks Meeting, also where is the "main street" of Bristol? Ellis Hookes died (p. 242) not in 11th mo. 1681 (January 1681-2) but in 9th mo. (November) 1681. Probably there are others: but it would be churlish to cavil and they can readily be corrected in the next edition. We must be profoundly grateful to Caroline Graveson for this book and it is much to be hoped that she will increase our gratitude still further by writing yet another novel to complete the trilogy.

EDWARD H. MILLIGAN

Friends' School, Wigton, 1815-1953. By David W. Reed. Wigton Old Scholars' Association, 1954. Pp. [x], 376, illus. 21s.

Wigton School for boys and girls was founded in 1815 by Cumberland Quarterly Meeting of Friends largely for its local needs at a time when Cumberland was much more cut off from the rest of England than it is today. Scotland General Meeting also supports the school. Partly on account of its isolation, in its first forty-five years the school faced difficulties of staffing which at times threatened its continuance, but by 1860 it was on its feet.

From 1860 to 1946 it has only had four headmasters, each with a long and steady term of service, during which the school has enlarged its curriculum, raised its standards, become fully co-educational, and

earned government recognition without sacrificing its character and independence.

The author was headmaster from 1923 to 1946, and after his retirement through ill-health he rendered the signal service of compiling this book before his death in December, 1954.

Full use has been made of the substance of two earlier accounts of the school which are enlarged and brought up to date. There is a full and lively account of every aspect during each "reign", and there are several contributions from old scholars.

Appendices give a complete register of scholars since the beginning, and one of staff, besides a tabular summary of the annual doings of the Old Scholars' Association. There is also an index, and the book has nearly sixty illustrations.

One Man's Vision: the Story of the Joseph Rowntree Village Trust. [By Lewis Waddilove.] London: Allen & Unwin, 1954. Pp. xiii, 149, illustrations, plans, tables. 10s. 6d.

The principal work of the trust has been the planning and development of the village of New Earswick, York, and the fostering of its community life in education, recreative and cultural interests, health services, etc. The trust has also contributed substantially to pioneer schemes of social amelioration for the community at large, such as a home for the education of mothers who have been prosecuted for neglecting their children, research into the causes and remedies for "broken homes", mobile rural health services, care of old people, community centres for instruction in better house management, and other projects.

This is a valuable factual history of a kind of public service to which Friends have often contributed inspiration and solid work; and when it has been joined to material resources it has produced great examples to be followed. Joseph Rowntree himself gave humble yet inspired leadership to the trust from his foundation of it in 1904, when he was 68, until his death in 1925.

The *Bulletin of Friends Historical Association*, vol. 43, no. 2, autumn number, 1954, includes a paper on "Charles Lamb and the Quakers", by Professor Warren Beck of Lawrence College, Appleton, Wis., and one by T. D. Seymour Bass of Earlham College on "The Quakers and Communitarianism", dealing largely with nineteenth century American experiments in this field. The notes include some interesting remarks on "The Quaker in the Dime Novel" (American fiction later nineteenth century) by Thomas Kimber, Professor of English at Pasadena College.

The *University of Birmingham Historical Journal*, vol. 4, no. 2 (1954) includes an obituary notice of John Sturge Stephens, 1891-1954, by Philip Styles, Reader in English History in the University of Birmingham, pp. 182-185.