

St. Paul's, South Croydon.

THESE TWENTY-FIVE YEARS

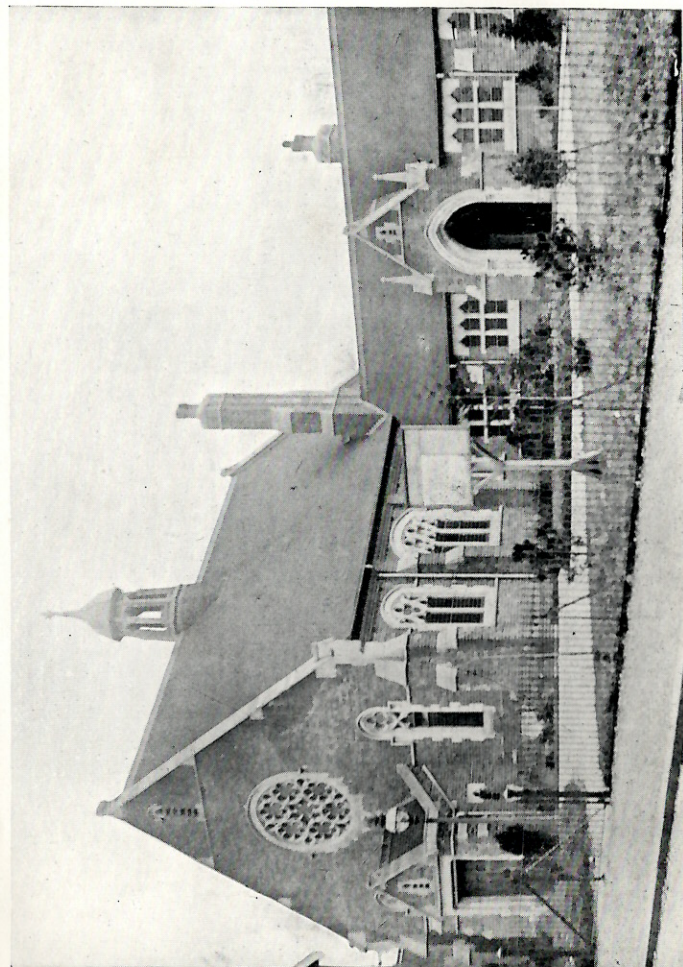
(1901—1926).

BY

R. S. McMINN.

Price Two Shillings.

In aid of the Semi-Jubilee Bazaar Funds.



THE HALL AND VESTRY, 1901.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ENGLAND.

ST. PAUL'S, SOUTH CROYDON.

(1901—1926.)



A Retrospect, by R. S. McMinn.

C. J. FARNCOMBE & SONS, LTD.,
55 SOUTH END, CROYDON.

1926

To the revered Memory of
MY FATHER,
A true-blue Presbyterian
and a devoted Pauline.

FOREWORD.

THE following Retrospect, authorised by the Session of St. Paul's, South Croydon, was, in substance, prepared for the Semi-Jubilee Reunion of Past and Present Members of the Church, on June 16th, 1926. It was read, in part, on this occasion, and its publication in pamphlet form was subsequently decided upon, in connection with the Semi-Jubilee Bazaar, on November 27th.

I desire specially to acknowledge the loyal and kindly co-operation of Miss G. E. Farncombe, of Messrs. C. J. Farncombe & Sons, Ltd., the Church Printers since 1903, without whose researches into past records the compilation of the Appendix would not have been possible.

September, 1926.

R. S. M.

TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY,

St. Paul's, South Croydon, June 16th, 1926.

(Verses composed, and spoken on the occasion, by the Rev. CLARKE H. IRWIN, D.D., a member of the Congregation's first Presbyterial Session.)

We sing to-night a song of gladsome praise,
Of happy memories and bygone days—

Jubilate!

We think to-night of men whose lives endure
In worthy temple and in worship pure—

Jubilate!

We think of mothers and of children's love,
Of those now gathered in the Home above—

Jubilate!

And when upon the past the shadows fall,
Up! let us hear the waking clarion call—

Jubilate!

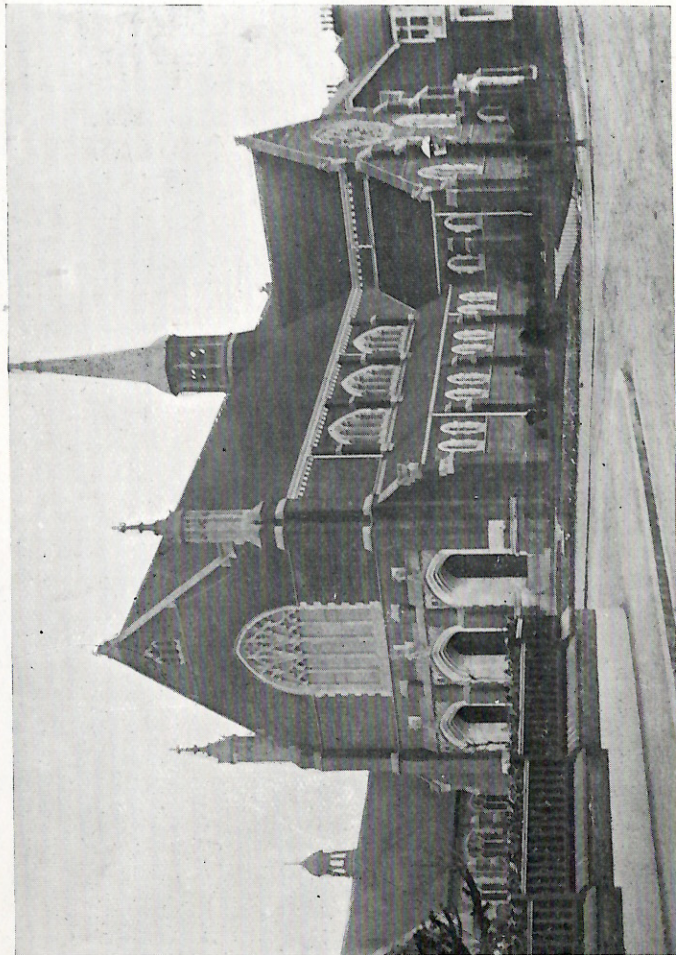
From selfish ease by higher impulse torn,
To active hours and trials bravely borne—

Jubilate!

Onward we march, with faces toward the day;
Our hope, our strength, is Christ, the living Way—

Jubilate!

“The Lord our God be with us, as He was with our Fathers.”



ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, 1905.

These Twenty-Five Years.

A Backward Glance, in Gratitude and Pride.

I

The Beginning of the Road: A. N. M.

(1901—1907).

“EVERY Church ought to be religiously jealous of its own history and to regard its past traditions as an inspiration and a responsibility,” said Dr. Joseph Parker, and his words may well serve as a justification, were any such needed, for a retrospect of the way we have been led as a Congregation these 25 years. Of the 124 whose names were recorded in the first list of Members and Seatholders at St. Paul's just 24 are in that for 1925. Such changes can a quarter of a century make in the *personnel* of a congregation. For the sake of those who have come after and comfortably entered into the heritage of the Founders, it is well on the occasion of this Semi-Jubilee to stir up (in the Apostle's words) their sincere minds by way of remembrance.

Through force of circumstance (for half my life I have been associated with St. Paul's) and owing to my sometimes inconvenient reverence for things past, I have come to be regarded as the historian of the Congregation. I certainly saw the beginnings of things in 1901 and have been a diligent, unofficial custodian—or hoarder, as some would choose to say—of the records, from the very first Order of Service and Year-book. In presenting this survey, I must first acknowledge my indebtedness to the records of two previous writers in *The Pauline*. On the eve of the Congregation's passing from the Hall into the Church, in 1905, Mr. William Jeater, St. Paul's first Choirmaster, wrote some five pages under the title “Looking Back.” My father, too, in May, 1911, recorded the first ten years of the Congregation's history, the early part of which was based on Mr. Jeater's retrospect.

It is not far short of 30 years since the Church Extension Committee of the Presbytery of London South considered the desirability of forming a congregation in South Croydon. The first definite step in the matter was not taken, however, until 1898, when, as the result of a meeting held at the residence of Mr. J. J. Reid, who was then Convener of that Committee, an application, dated September 1st,

1898, and signed by *eight* loyal Presbyterians living in South Croydon, was made to the Presbytery for the initiation of a 'cause' there. These happy few, this band of brothers, found it impracticable to attend regularly the services at St. George's, and believing that, with the steady growth of the town in South Croydon and Sanderstead, there was ample room for another church of the same order, they were willing to face the initial difficulties. The application was favourably received, the Session of St. George's having signified its approval, and at a meeting held at Mr. George Goodsir's house, "Merlewood," Harewood Road, on November 19th, 1898, a Committee was formed, including Messrs. P. B. Beddow, T. B. Comley, Henry Darley, George Goodsir, William Jeater, R. I. McMinn, P. E. Phillips and J. J. Reid. Of these, Messrs. Comley, Darley, McMinn and Reid were Office-bearers in St. George's. Mr. Reid was appointed Chairman, Mr. Phillips Secretary, and Mr. Goodsir Treasurer. The original intention was that the new movement should be under the Session of St. George's Church, of which the Rev. A. N. Mackray, M.A., was then Minister, and that the work in both churches should be carried on under him, with the help of an assistant. This idea was, however, found to be impracticable, and eventually a Session was formed by appointment of the Presbytery.

The first step taken by the local Committee was the securing of financial Guarantors, and these were found in Mr. Daniel Wellby, an Elder of St. George's, and Messrs. Goodsir, Phillips and Reid. The next was the selection of a site. This involved much labour, protracted negotiations and many difficulties, the burden of which mainly fell on Mr. Reid, the Chairman. A variety of considerations narrowed down the decision to a site on the Croham Park Estate, which had just then been thrown open for development by Mr. Douglas Young, but it was not until December, 1899, that the purchase of the freehold from the Whitgift Governors was completed, on favourable terms and with the consent of the Charity Commissioners, and the site in Croham Park Avenue was conveyed to the four Guarantors.

Meanwhile, a good deal of work was being done in other directions, including some devotional meetings at the houses of friends in the neighbourhood. Mr. Charles Henman, who designed the Municipal Buildings, was selected as Architect, and plans were drawn, discussed and modified again and again. "St. Paul" was chosen as the patronal name, and at last, on the 26th June, 1900, in a marquee, holding about 250 people, Divine Service was held, the Rev. A. N. Mackray, M.A., presiding, and the Foundation Stone of the Hall and adjacent rooms was laid by the Moderator of Synod, the late Rev. John Watson, D.D., of Liverpool, better known to the general public as "Ian Maclaren." At an evening commemorative meeting, held in the Public Hall, the Right Hon. the Earl of Aberdeen presided. The buildings were not ready for occupation until May 4th, 1901, when they were dedicated to the

glory of God, the late Dr. Monro Gibson preaching the first sermon. A Communion Roll had by this time been formed, consisting of forty-two persons, and a congregational meeting was now held to consider the question of a permanent minister. The name of the Rev. A. N. Mackray, M.A., on whom the hopes of the little Congregation had been set, was proposed and unanimously accepted. A Call was addressed to him in due form, and, at a meeting of the Presbytery of London South, it was accepted by him, and the Induction took place on June 13th, 1901. The late Rev. John More, of Woolwich, gave the charges, and the Rev. J. M. Blake, M.A., then of Wallington, preached on "The Church as a Garden." The temporary Session appointed by Presbytery in March—with the late Rev. W. M. Macphail, M.A., of Streatham, as Moderator, and of which the Revs. C. H. Irwin and D. C. Macgregor remain—was then discharged, and the first Congregational Session was appointed, consisting of Messrs. Darley, Jeater, McMinn and Reid, under Mr. Mackray, Moderator. Mr. R. I. McMinn acted as Session Clerk until March, 1908, and Mr. Reid, who had previously been Clerk of the interim Session, after that date.

The 'management,' by which is meant the discharge of diaconal duties, remained in the hands of the original Committee, though it had not been free from changes. In the early days of the movement, a severe loss was sustained by the death of Mr. P. E. Phillips, and the Secretaryship then devolved on Mr. Comley, and much of the success of the movement was due to his untiring energy and service. In the early part of 1901, Messrs. Thomas Barefoot and Francis Green were associated with the Committee.

At the end of the first year the Roll stood at 87, and by 1904 it had risen to 160, in which year 17 members were admitted on Profession of Faith, 14 being from Mr. Mackray's Communicants' Class. In October, 1903, on the occasion of *The Daily News* religious census, taken on a Sunday locally, there were 204 present in the morning and 150 at night—the largest adult congregation among the Free Churches in South Croydon. To-day, the number of Members and Seatholders is 294, not all of whom are, however, present at some services!

The first election of Deacons took place in December, 1901, and Messrs. Barefoot, Goodsir, Green and Haddock were ordained. Mr. Green was the first Manager of Seat-Letting and from the beginning took a deep interest in the work of the Mission. Mr. J. P. C. Haddock, after a very brief term of office, although he had given many years of service in the Church elsewhere, fell on sleep, to the great impoverishment of the Congregation. A further election was deemed necessary, and in December of the next year, Messrs. E. D. Brown, A. B. Gray and T. H. Ledger were admitted to the Diaconate. In 1905, Messrs. Barefoot, Gray and Green were promoted to the Eldership, and Dr. J. E. Scott and Messrs. P. B. Beddow, Edward Carlile, Hugh Lewis and Watson Slack were elected

Deacons. Mr. Barefoot was Clerk of the Court until 1905, when Mr. Brown succeeded him.

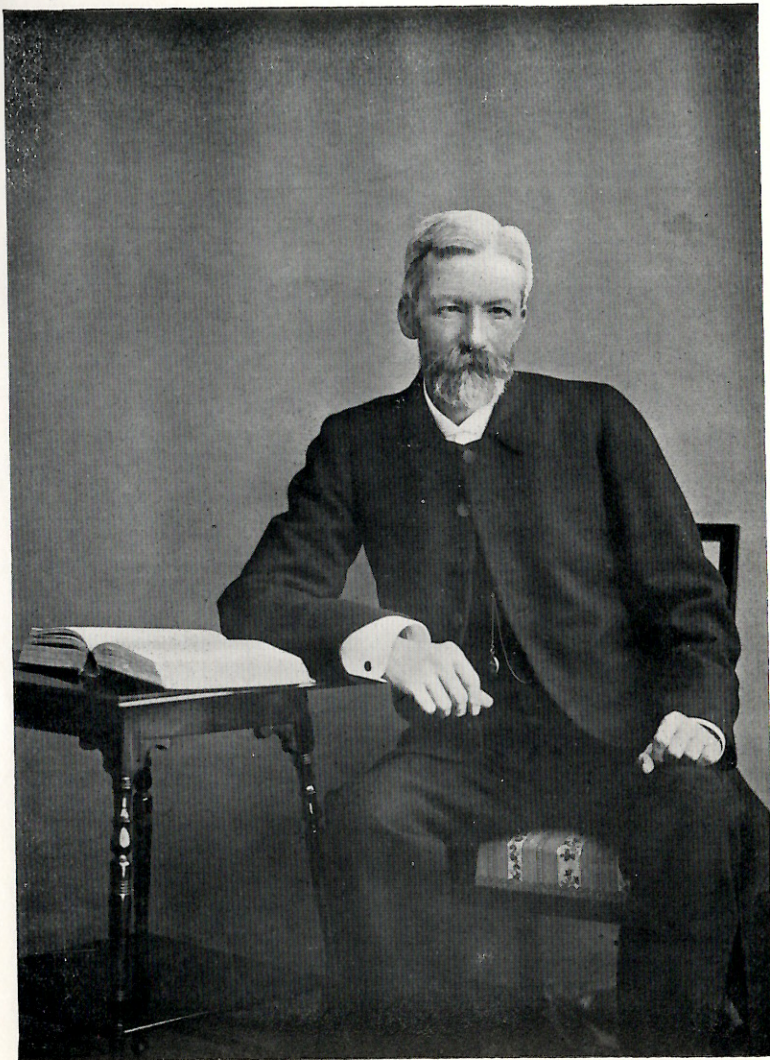
During the first year of Mr. Mackray's ministry, the Session initiated the following organisations, in addition to the ordinary Sunday and Wednesday Evening Services: the observance of the Holy Communion on the first Sunday of each month, the Young People's Service on Sunday afternoons (conducted by Mr. Mackray, Messrs. Beddow and Gray acting as Organists, and Dr. John Watson's beautiful Litany being used), the Literary Guild, the Women's Missionary Association, the Guild of Women Workers, the Higher Instruction Class and, in 1902, the Sunday Morning Prayer Meeting. I had the high privilege and honour, from the opening of the Hall to Mr. Mackray's retirement, of acting as his Sunday Reader at the Lectern. His inimitable morning 'sermonettes' to the boys and girls and his incomparable prayers will ever be associated with his name and ministry.

The issue, at first quarterly, of *The Pauline*, a record of the work of the Church, was begun in January, 1904, Mr. Mackray being its gifted Editor. It is the Magazine's proud boast that, from the beginning, it has been able to maintain itself without the 'adventitious aid' of advertisements.

From the outset we determined, in the spirit of Apostolic counsel, to look not only on our own things but also on the things of others, and undertook: (1) the provision of stated opportunities for contributing to the Synodical Funds of the Presbyterian Church of England; (2) Half the cost of maintaining the Mission in Johnson Road, the other half to be met by St. George's Church. The service of workers from St. Paul's has since continued uninterruptedly.

On November 4th and 5th, 1903, a Bazaar was held in the Church Hall, supplemented by a large marquee. It was opened by the late Right Hon. C. T. Ritchie, then M.P. for Croydon. This realised upwards of £725, the late Mr. J. G. Taylor acting as Treasurer.

By this time all available sittings (226) in the Hall were let, and it became necessary to proceed with the erection of the Church. The heavy debt on the Hall was an obstacle, and the Treasurer, Mr. George Goodsir, munificently gave £500, promising a like sum towards the Church, if this were cleared before the building began. The response was splendid, and by Foundation Day (June 25th, 1904) the remanent portion of the debt was extinguished by the generous gift of Mr. and Mrs. E. D. Brown. £5,304—the cost of site, buildings, &c.—had been raised. During the first five years £13,784 was contributed for all purposes—£1,500 for others—and £24,212 during the first decade. Of this nearly £11,000 was for the Building Fund, which item, besides the proceeds of two Bazaars, includes those of three wonderfully organised Eisteddfods (Mrs. Hugh Lewis and Mr. Kenneth Young (1904), Mr. Kenneth Young and Miss Laura Price (1906), Mr. Wallace Young and Miss



Rev. A. N. MACKRAY, M.A., 1900—1907.

(Died, 1921.)

Link (1910), Secretaries), and three successful concerts—Scotch, Welsh and English—arranged by Mr. Goodsir and Mr. Lewis. At the third Eisteddfod, the Musical Adjudicator was the late and famous S. Coleridge Taylor, who, it is interesting to remember, began his career as a choir-boy at St. George's. In addition, there were bestowed many gifts in kind—such as Communion Plate, Church furniture, pulpit Bibles and ornaments*—which remain in constant use.

The Foundation Stone was laid on June 26th, 1904, by the late Right Hon. Lord Balfour of Burleigh, K.T., and the Rev. George Hanson, D.D., gave an address. In the nether stone were inserted a sealed phial containing a Year-Book for 1904, a copy of the day's proceedings, a local paper and the customary coins of the realm. The Offering on that occasion was nearly £1,200, part of which was in the form of presentation purses by the children of the Congregation, which were graciously received by the Hon. Mary Bruce.

In the winter of 1904-05, the Rev. J. Horace Johnston, B.A., assisted Mr. Mackray in the pastoral work, and during that period a Young Men's Guild was formed, which continued in being through the following winter. (This Class was afterwards resuscitated under the leadership of Mr. Hugh Lewis, with encouraging results.) St. Paul's Ladies' Bible Circle at the Manse, which had the exceptional advantage of Mr. Mackray's instruction, had an honourable connection with the Synod's Higher Instruction Examination. In 1903, the first two in the Senior List for all England were Paulines. (Miss Ethel Link took second place; next year she had a double first, gaining medals for the Scripture Examination and the Essay, and was again Medallist in 1905). In these three years, an average of 10 members of the Class sat for the examination.

The new Church was dedicated for public worship on October 7th, 1905. The Central Door was opened by the late Sir George Barclay Bruce, and at the Dedication Service the Offering amounted to £1,000. The special preacher was again Dr. Monro Gibson. The first sermon preached from that pulpit he intended should be on duty and he based his subject on the three scriptures: "Thou shalt love," "Let us love" and "God is love." "Finis Coronat Opus" was the triumphant headline in *The Pauline's* description of the event. The series of special Sunday preachers, with which the services in the Church began, included the late Rev. W. Robertson Nicoll, D.D., Editor of *The British Weekly*, the late Dr. Dallinger, the Revs. R. C. Gillie, M.A., H. Elvet Lewis, M.A., and F. B. Meyer, B.A.

The fine Organ (costing £1,300) was completed and dedicated on May 30th, 1906. Built by Messrs. Lewis and Co., its installation was largely due to the help, financial and otherwise, of Mr. P. B. Beddow. At the service an appropriate address, "The Gate of

* See Appendix.

Praise," was given by the Rev. J. M. Blake, M.A., and Mr. H. L. Balfour, F.R.C.O., gave an organ recital. Mr. Jeater, who had been Honorary Choirmaster from the inception of the Church, retired, to the great regret of all, in order to make room for an Organist. The Congregation testified its appreciation of his invaluable services by presenting him with an address and other gifts. It was under Mr. Jeater's leadership that the splendid tradition of St. Paul's Choir—so ably maintained to-day—was begun. Mr. H. Morley Mead, F.R.C.O., was appointed in July, 1906.

Mr. Jeater, after leaving Croydon, went to Streatham and, at Trinity Presbyterian Church, where he had already a family connection, he became an Elder in 1907, and was Session Clerk from 1915 to 1918. He died on February 16th, 1919. "He was a man of many gifts—scholar, artist and musician—and was the composer of three tunes in *Church Praise*: Christina Rossetti's 'None other Lamb' (314), Frances Ridley Havergal's 'True-hearted, whole-hearted, faithful and loyal' (354) and the Offertory Sentence, 'All things come of Thee' (733). With his great abilities he combined spiritual depth, gentleness and unflinching courtesy." He was a close student of the Greek Testament and an exquisite calligraphist. Specimens of his illuminating work remain on the title pages of the pulpit Bibles at St. Paul's.

The next event of importance was another Bazaar, "Hearth and Home" (the stalls representing the different rooms of a house), held in the Croydon Public Hall, on October 22nd and 23rd, 1907, the net result of which, including donations, was not far short of £1,800. The late Mr. J. S. Duncan was the enthusiastic Treasurer.

At a Congregational Meeting held on November 20th, 1907, Mr. Mackray announced that, owing to failing health and advancing years, it was his intention to apply to the Presbytery to be released from his charge. It had always been his intention to see the Congregation housed in the Church and then to stand aside for another. This matter had already been considered by the Session and Deacons' Court, both of which had regretfully acquiesced. A resolution was passed by the meeting, setting forth the gratitude of the Church for Mr. Mackray's ministry.

The Presbytery of London South met on December 3rd, when, amid many expressions of regret and sympathy, the resignation of Mr. Mackray was accepted, and the late Rev. W. M. Macphail, M.A., was again appointed Moderator of Session *ad interim*. Mr. Mackray's close friend and neighbour, the Rev. J. M. Blake, M.A., of Wallington, in the following exquisite terms moved that the resignation be accepted:

"Moderator, Fathers and Brethren, that I should rise, in the presence of so many senior members of this Court, to propose that this resignation be accepted, requires a word of justification. More than eight years ago, when I became a minister of the South London Presbytery, one of its oldest members, in speaking of its *personnel*, said, 'We have one man who is a spiritual and intellectual genius.' It has been among the great gifts of my life that that one man has

given to me something of his friendship, and I have risen to speak now, for I think that no one's regret can be more keen than mine. In proportion to our knowledge of Mr. Mackray, must have been the spur and the stimulus that the courage of his ministry has given. It is many years since he was called upon to tread a path of deep shadows, wherein I fear most of us would have recognised the gloaming haze of evening, and would have heard the counsel of rest and retirement; to his strong heart it was as the mists of morning, through which he discerned great visions of the day, and these visions he has interpreted year after year to his people, to the great comfort of their souls. That his ministry should have been visibly crowned by the effort of his later years, in which he has founded a new congregation and given it the impulse to erect what is the most beautiful of all the churches of our Presbytery, seems fitting, yet, to those who know, that which remains invisible, which came from his heart to many a heart which was changed thereby, is the true crown of his days. In all our hearts to-day, I know the uppermost feeling is one of deep and humble gratitude to God for such a life and such a ministry; and one beam of light rests among the shadows, since we know that he will serve other churches by preaching, and many who have never had the chance of hearing his golden-tongued messages will now come under their inspiration and their sway."

At the next meeting of St. Paul's Session, it was agreed to enter the following Minute on its records and to send a copy to Mr. Mackray:

"In recording the acceptance by the Presbytery of the Rev. A. N. Mackray's resignation, the Session expresses the deep regret with which it has felt compelled to acquiesce in the severance of the pastoral tie which has existed between him and St. Paul's Congregation from the beginning of its history. The Session feels that, in undertaking the arduous labours connected with the building up of a new congregation and in continuing for the period of six and a half years to watch over and foster its development, in spite of the serious physical disabilities with which he has had to contend, Mr. Mackray has rendered a service to the Office-bearers and Members of St. Paul's, present and future, and to the cause of Presbyterianism in this district, which it is impossible to over-estimate.

"The Session records its grateful appreciation of the help received from his cultured, evangelical and inspiring preaching of the Word of Life, his gift of sympathetic, fervent and comprehensive public prayer, his assiduous pastoral visitation, greatly valued, especially in times of sickness and sorrow, and his active interest in the various organisations of the Congregation, all of which were originated at his suggestion or under his supervision.

"The Session desires to assure Mr. Mackray that he carries with him, into his retirement from full ministerial service, the best wishes of all its members, and to express the hope that his release from the heavy strain of the pastorate may result in such a restoration or conservation of health and strength that he may be able for many years to place his conspicuous gifts as a preacher at the service of the Church at large.—R. I. McMINN, *Session Clerk*."

No record of Mr. Mackray's ministry either at St. George's or St. Paul's could be adequate without reference to the devoted support, both personal and in the Congregation, of Mrs. Mackray. "A succourer of many and of myself also" were the words chosen by her husband for her memorial tablet. In particular, she ministered sight to the blind and used to copy his sermons verbatim, in large text hand, into the familiar little note books which he brought close to his eyes, when even his marvellous memory required refreshing in the pulpit. Her work was continued, beautifully and beatifically, by certain honourable women of St. Paul's, through whose systematic reading the eyes of his understanding were enlightened on questions of the day and the latest contributions to religious and literary thought.

II

Midway and the Trail of War: H. C.

(1909—1917.)

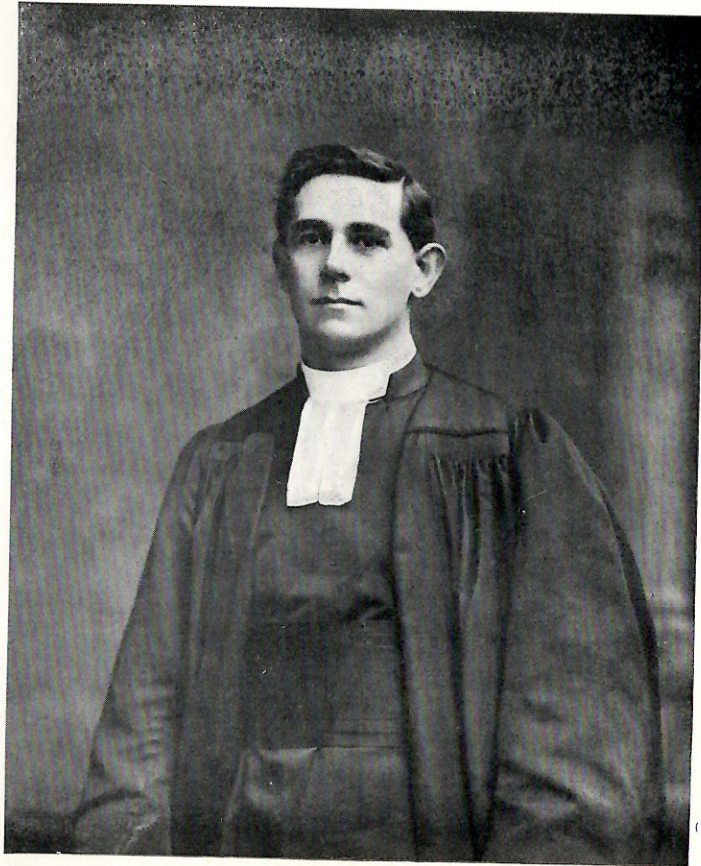
A CONGREGATIONAL meeting was held on December 18th to consider the steps to be taken to select another Minister, and a Committee was appointed to co-operate with the Elders and Deacons in the matter. The Selection Committee eventually recommended the Rev. Henry Crombie, of Park United Free Church, Helensburgh, to the Congregation, and a motion that steps be taken to call Mr. Crombie was proposed by Mr. Reid, seconded by Mr. Douglas Young and supported by Messrs. Goodsir, Lewis, Beddow and others. The Presbytery met with the Congregation on February 17th, 1909, when the Call was signed by eighty-nine Members and twenty-one Adherents and sustained.

Thus, after a trying vacancy of 16 months, on Thursday, March 18th, 1909, the Presbytery of London South again met at St. Paul's for the Induction of the new Minister. The service was conducted by the late Rev. W. M. Macphail, M.A., and Dr. Thomas Carter, Mr. Mackray's successor at St. George's. The sermon was preached by the Rev. John Cochrane, M.A., of Putney, and the charge to Minister and Congregation was given by the Rev. R. C. Gillie, M.A., then of Eastbourne.

At a Social Meeting of the Congregation, on a subsequent evening, Mr. and Mrs. Crombie received a cordial welcome. As was happily observed by the Moderator, Mr. Crombie, "trained and nurtured in English Presbyterianism," had returned from the United Free to his Mother Church. The ministry thus begun proved fruitful in blessing, and St. Paul's had much cause for gratitude that it was led to the choice of one who so faithfully proclaimed the Word of Life.

Of the 13 Trustees of the Church property under the Model Trust Deed (mainly Office-bearers, of whom Mr. Crombie was one), Messrs. Hugh Lewis, Hector Morison, J.P., and C. A. Young are still acting.

Two Visitations were made by the Presbytery—in December, 1903, and January, 1910. Of the former, the Presbytery record "congratulates Minister and People on having been able to acquire within so brief a period so much valuable property, and rejoices that, while they have succeeded in meeting the demands of the work among themselves, they have taken thought for the things of others at home and abroad."



Rev. HENRY CROMBIE, 1903—1917.

On the second occasion, the Presbytery, "remembering the powerful and gracious ministry of the Rev. A. N. Mackray, M.A., is gratified to learn that the work so well begun by him is being admirably carried on by his gifted successor, the Rev. Henry Crombie."

From the outset, Mr. Crombie conducted regularly and with inspiring interest the Afternoon Service for Young People, and his Higher Instruction Class distinguished itself by the number of the Synod's awards which it obtained. During 1910, the membership was increased by 25, ten joining the Church from among the Minister's Bible students. The high-water mark year was 1912, when there were 160 on the Roll, and though, owing to removals and the War, the membership had dropped to 143 by 1917, the number was well in excess of that in 1908—09. From the first, Mr. Crombie took a warm interest in the Literary Society, and the successive reports testify, as was the case under Mr. Mackray, to the Minister's regular occupancy of the chair and valuable contributions to the success of the meetings. During his presidency, the 'Leone Levi' prize of the London Presbyterian Literary Societies' Union was twice gained by South Croydon members (once under Mr. Mackray), and a signal honour was conferred on the Society by Mr. Goodsir's appointment as President of the Union.

An outstanding event in the life of the Congregation was the introduction, in January, 1914,* of graded classes into the Sunday School, the success of which venture of faith is abundantly proved by the acknowledged high state of efficiency of each department to-day. Previously Mr. Crombie himself took the Afternoon Service, and when "Othello's occupation" was gone, he carried on for some time the weekly Training Class for Teachers.

The Evangelical Mission in September—October, 1913, zealously organised by Mr. Beddow, as Secretary, and conducted by the late Dr. Harry Guinness, F.R.G.S., was "one of the most delightful experiences St. Paul's has ever had, . . . a time of real spiritual uplift, of true drawing nearer to God and of new and deepened apprehension of the wonder of His love, declared in the Gospel of His grace." Manifold new forms of work resulted from the Mission, such as the Fellowship, the Guild of Business Girls, the Men's

* "In our first Year Book, chronicling the work done in 1901, occur these words: 'It was a hopeful sign of the central place to be given to the children of the Church that, on the first Sunday after his induction, our Minister conducted an Afternoon Service for Young People.' That Service, commenced by Mr. Mackray, has been continued through all the 12 years that have passed since then, and the thought of many a bright, happy and helpful hour spent with the dear children remains in the memories of those who have so regularly given up their Sunday afternoons to the service of the young, during that period. Mr. and Mrs. Beddow were in it from start to finish, the former as Organist and the latter as Treasurer; and much of the early success was owing to Miss Wheatley's enthusiastic and devoted service as Secretary."—*St. Paul's Year Book, 1914.*

Own and the Thursday Fireside Meetings for discussion of religious and social subjects. In the case of most of these, the incidence of war stifled the young life by removing many of the active workers.

The Church Hall was tastefully redecorated during the summer of 1913, and a Sale of Work, promoted by the ladies in April, 1914, to cover the cost, was so successful that a surplus of £92—about half the total raised—was handed over to the Building Fund. And this leads on to the statement that during Mr. Crombie's ministry the Church Debt was reduced by the splendid sum of £4,070. The 'red letter' year was 1912—that of the Tenth Anniversary Thanksgiving. The offering of £1,750 aimed at was actually exceeded by £264, which was practically the amount gathered in through the enthusiasm of the famous "Young People's Effort," under Mr. Ronald S. Duncan, the Chairman. The membership after 10 years was 148, 112 names having been removed by death or otherwise in the interim.

From October to December, 1911, Mr. Crombie was abroad in Switzerland through an unfortunate breakdown in health, but from the time of his return to the day of his resignation he was rarely absent from the pulpit, and his energies on behalf of his devoted people were unflagging and unsparing. This would seem an appropriate point to refer to his marvellous strength and activity during the War. On the outbreak of hostilities in August, 1914, he went to Switzerland, to bring his family home, and remained an enforced prisoner with them until well on in the month. In November, he and Mr. Harold Williams were mainly instrumental in starting the Y.M.C.A. tents at Warlingham Camp, which may be said to have been the beginning of his noble service under the Red Triangle that led to St. Paul's eventual loss of him as Minister. Daily Intercession Services, arranged at varying hours to suit the convenience of all, were held from Easter, 1915, to June, 1916, when Mr. Crombie's acceptance of a post as Organiser at the Y.M.C.A. Headquarters made only a weekly service possible. On two occasions, high and gratifying praise came to the Session, from the leaders of the Association, of the value of his work at Headquarters and as a 'Missioner' up and down the country. In June, 1915, he took on fresh duties as Chaplain to one of the Croydon Military Hospitals, entailing early services every third Sunday and constant visitation of the wounded soldiery. In addition, he acted with great acceptance as regular Chaplain at "Wallacefield" Auxiliary Hospital, Mr. George Goodsir's beautiful home, surrendered for the period of the War and managed by Mrs. Goodsir, O.B.E., and at St. Dorothy's Convalescent Home, organised by Mrs. Link and Miss Ethel Link, M.B.E. He shewed for the men of the Congregation on service a constant and tender solicitude, writing countless personal letters and commending them continually at the Throne of Grace. In January, 1916, a special form of Intercessory Service was drawn up by Mr. Crombie and this remained in use, *mutatis mutandis*, on the first Sunday of each

month till the close of war. As far as could be ascertained, St. Paul's Roll of War Service, past and present, numbered 52. Of those who "jeopardized their lives for God and Country and the cause of Freedom," nine (whose names are recorded on the Memorial Tablet) "went forth and returned not again." "Fideles usque ad Mortem." Military Honours gained were: D.S.O. (1), M.C. (5), D.C.M. (1), Orders and Decorations (3), Mentions in Despatches (4). As a point of historic interest, it may be recorded that, on one occasion during the War, the deliberations of the Deacons' Court were interrupted (and concluded) by the intimation of a hostile air-raid.

To our late Minister's sermons and teaching generally, to his beautiful and comprehensive prayers and to his intense earnestness and consistency, during the terrible war period, testimony was repeatedly borne. No summary of Mr. Crombie's devoted labours would be complete without a passing reference to his care of the young and to his wise and winsome addresses Sunday by Sunday from the pulpit. For some time the gift of a picture text was made to every boy and girl attending morning service.

Death did not spare the flock during the nine years, 23 Members and Adherents (including those on active service) having fallen asleep. Of Mr. Crombie's original Session, three passed Beyond; of the Diaconate of six, one was transferred to the Eldership, and the rest left the neighbourhood. Finally, on the financial side, the Church did well during his ministry. The total amount raised for all objects—ordinary and special—reached the remarkable figure of £16,812.

In 1916, near the beginning, passed to his rest Mr. John Johnstone Reid, the Session Clerk, churchman, counsellor and most liberal supporter from the first of the Congregation which he founded. His biography was penned by his predecessor in office, Mr. Robert Inglis McMinn, who followed him beyond the Shadows at the end of the same year. Both had been close friends and fellow stalwarts of Presbyterianism in Croydon for over 40 years.

Mr. Crombie, who had strongly wished to go to France, in October, 1917, asked the concurrence of the Congregation in his request to Presbytery to release him from his charge, so that he might put himself at the disposal of the Y.M.C.A. authorities, who had long been pressing for his whole-time service. For 18 months, the Session had acquiesced in his seven day week—six in London and the Sunday at St. Paul's, when he used to preach in khaki. He felt that the Y.M.C.A., "the Church in action," offered "a religion of limitless hopefulness," and in the Army Hut, chaplains were able to get at close grips with the men. No obstacle was put in his path. After due and serious deliberation, and on the proposal of Mr. Goodsir, the Congregation regretfully agreed to his resignation. This was accepted by Presbytery in November, Mr. Goodsir appearing as a Commissioner for St. Paul's and paying a fine tribute to Mr. Crombie's ministry and self-sacrifice. His

brethren in the Court all expressed profound concern, the Rev. J. M. Fergusson, M.A., speaking feelingly to the resolution that the resignation take effect. Another member called attention to the fact that Mr. Crombie's able services as Secretary to the Committee for the Revision of the Directory for Public Worship would be lost to the Church by his removal.

He preached for the last time as Minister of St. Paul's on Advent Sunday, December 2nd, 1917. His evening text was "All things are of God, Who hath reconciled us to Himself by Jesus Christ," and he gave an exquisite and touching valediction as a post-Communion address, which was printed in full in *The Pauline* of January, 1918.

It need hardly be stated that Mrs. Crombie was included in the Church's expression of gratitude and God-speed. She had proved a genial 'mother superior' to the Congregation. Like her successor, Mrs. Pulford Williams, as President of the W.M.A. and of the Guild of Women Workers, she guided their affairs with energy and enthusiasm and took an active interest in all departments of the life at St. Paul's.



Rev. J. PULFORD WILLIAMS, B.A., 1918.

III

To the 25th Milestone: J. P. W.

(1918—1926.)

AT the request of the Session, the Rev. J. M. Fergusson, M.A., then of Wallington, was appointed Moderator, and under his wise guidance the vacancy was not protracted. On Palm Sunday, 1918, a deputation of the Selection Committee visited Willesden Church and brought back so favourable a report that its Minister, the Rev. J. Pulford Williams, B.A., was invited for a Sunday to St. Paul's. Negotiations between the Session and the Minister 'designate' led to a satisfactory issue. The difficulties were cleared away, and, at a Congregational Meeting on June 24th, Mr. Goodsir moved that his name be inserted in the Call, which was ultimately signed by 82 Communicants and 34 Adherents. The Call was sustained by the Presbytery, and Mr. Comley, Mr. Goodsir, Mr. Walter Scott and I were appointed Commissioners to North London Presbytery, for its prosecution at Regent Square on July 9th. In a fine, manly speech and under a strong sense of duty, Mr. Pulford Williams accepted the invitation, which he had neither sought nor desired. He spoke affectionately of his people and of his seven years' heavy work at Willesden, fully realising the changed conditions that he would find at Croydon, where he would miss the inspiration of the crowd. The recognised difficulty of the charge appealed to him, and he hoped that he might build St. Paul's back to a strength commensurate with her opportunities and powers. "Somehow," he confidently concluded, "I do not think the labour will be in vain." Mr. Fergusson, as Moderator, and Mr. Goodsir spoke of St. Paul's great need, and the Rev. R. C. Gillie, M.A., a former Minister of Willesden, moved that the Call be placed in Mr. Pulford Williams's hands, saying how he had always admired his meticulous devotion to duty and the beautiful spirit that animated all his work.

On the following Sunday, Mr. Goodsir announced the news to the Congregation, in a memorable speech from the Lectern. He spoke of the event as a trumpet call to each one to gird up his loins and rededicate himself heart and soul to the enlargement of God's kingdom in South Croydon. "Let us go forward, in full reliance upon the inspiring motto which Mr. Crombie left as his farewell word, 'The best is yet to be.' And may God in His infinite love show us the way to these better things." The Doxology came as a dramatic expression of the Congregation's gratitude and pledge.

The summer of 1918 had been a critical time for the Nation

as for St. Paul's, but the acceptance of the Call happily synchronised with the final big forward movement of the Allies in France.

"Stole on the ear the distant triumph song,
And hearts were brave again, and arms were strong. Alleluia!"

The Induction took place on September 27th, the Rev. J. Hay Colligan, M.A., preaching, and the Rev. W. W. D. Campbell, M.A., of the Mother Church, giving the Charge to new Minister and Congregation. The third ministry at St. Paul's began on the following Sunday, when Mr. Pulford Williams preached at both services to the best congregation St. Paul's could produce. His evening sermon on "Come thou with us and we will do thee good" was a direct invitation and challenge to all to have a share in the great work that lay before us in the district. At the welcome meeting, the speech of the evening was undoubtedly that of the veteran Rev. A. N. Mackray, M.A., who congratulated his younger brother on entering, in the maturity of his powers, on a fresh field of service, at a time when the old order was indeed yielding place to new. His reference to the silent voices heard that night and the vanished forms with which the inward eye peopled the Hall had very tender significance for many. He reminded his fellow-members that they were inheriting—and, if wise, they would reap the fruitage of—their new Leader's 27 years of ministry. To his *venture* of faith their *response* of faith should be given. The presence of God was better than any plan of the road. "Looking forward strains the eyesight; looking upward opens heaven." Mrs. Comley spoke a welcome for the ladies and deftly robed the Minister in a silk Geneva gown—his people's gift.

Peace, "dear muse of arts, put up her lovely visage" shortly afterwards, and a special Thanksgiving for the Cessation of War took place on the Sunday following November 11th. The consolidation of the Congregation proceeded slowly but surely, and there have been annual increases in the membership in the past eight years from 134 to 268 (exactly and curiously double). The Congregation, having now exceeded the statutory number of 250, has, and exercises, the right of sending two Representative Elders to Presbytery. The ranks of the Office-bearers had been sadly depleted by the indirect influence of the War, and at the new Minister's first meeting of Deacons' Court only three were present. On Armistice Day, was buried its devoted Clerk, Mr. James Binning, whose continued service had seemed so essential, and the ranks were further closed. In March, 1919, six Elders and seven Deacons were inducted (including the present Clerk of Session, Mr. Henry Fraser, Mr. H. S. Jones, who became Clerk of Deacons' Court that year, and Mr. F. J. Oxtoby, one of the original Members). In the memorable words of Mr. Comley in the Vestry after the service, the Congregation, new manned, stood once more four-square to the world.

It was during an illness of the Minister in November, 1918, that

Mr. Mackray, in a brotherly and gracious act, occupied his old pulpit, after eleven years, on St. Andrew's Day, to his own and the Congregation's joy.

The history of the succeeding and successful years is so comparatively recent that it will be sufficient now to record only its salient features. But these include big events in the congregational story and also heavy losses, out of some of which has beautifully come the enrichment of the Church in the way of noble Memorials. In May, 1919, Mr. Thomas Belfield Comley, Session Clerk, "good and faithful servant," passed to his reward, having served his day and generation as another Presbyterian bulwark, both at St. George's and St. Paul's.

The Memorial and Peace Thanksgiving Fund was inaugurated that year under three heads: our own War Memorial, the Debt Extinction and purchase of a Manse, and the Synod's £100,000 scheme (first promoted, it should ever be remembered, by St. Paul's "Greatheart," Mr. Goodsir) for increasing the minimum stipends of Ministers throughout the Church. £2,100, in all, was raised for the three specific purposes. In September, 1919, the Manse in Croham Park Avenue was acquired by the Church, and the Minister and his family were installed.

In 1920, the present Missioner, Mr. W. C. Whitmill, was appointed to the oversight of Johnson Road Mission Church, the good work having been carried on temporarily by Mr. Moffat and others since January, 1917, when Mr. William Rodger, now Minister-in-Charge at Kemp Town, Brighton, Presbyterian Church, after 20 years of splendid labour, resigned for war service in France with the Y.M.C.A. Of Mr. Rodger it was written in *The Pauline* by Mr. Crombie: "His genial urbanity and shrewd good sense have unfailingly helped him to fulfil his ministry to the entire approval of those most interested in the success of his service. That success has been marked and it has been sustained." In 1925, mainly through the agency of Miss K. A. Taylor and Mr. William Penman, a Missioner's house was acquired by St. Paul's Congregation, and a fund was opened to pay off, by instalments, a loan of £600 from the Atlas Assurance Company.

On Advent Sunday, 1920, the beautiful memorial gifts of Mr. and Mrs. Ryan were dedicated at an impressive service, in which the Revs. A. N. Mackray and Henry Crombie took prominent parts. In fine concern for the further adornment of the Church, the two Lancet Windows in memory of their son, Capt. A. Eric Ryan, M.C., were later added to, and in the South Aisle are now six exquisite figures of early British Saints.

The Debt Extinction Scheme had proceeded apace, and, in June, 1921, mainly by the contagious enthusiasm and persistent benefactions of Mr. Goodsir, the War Memorial East Window and Tablet were dedicated, on the occasion of the 21st Anniversary of the Foundation, and the remanent debt was extinguished. The

Rev. R. C. Gillie, M.A., gave a moving address on "Sacrifice," the central subject of the Window being the Crucifixion, and Mr. Crombie paid individual tributes to the memory of the Fallen, each of whom had been among his own young men at St. Paul's. The Minister had sat in the Vestry for most of the previous day in order to receive the gifts of his people, and a thrill of joy was felt when the welcome news of the lifting of the burden of debt was announced.

It was pathetic indeed that the revered Founder of the Church did not live to share the gladness of the day. The Rev. Archibald Neilson Mackray, M.A., St. Paul's friend and Father in God, had passed to his rest and reward only a week before. "An eminent Scholar, a faithful Pastor, a Prince of Preachers, mighty in the Word and in Prayer, his works do follow him." His friend, the Rev. Edward Miller, M.A., of Cannes, and formerly of Streatham, travelled 400 miles to give an affectionate eulogy at the Funeral Service in St. Paul's.

Mr. George Goodsir, J.P., the original and only Treasurer so far, had throughout the 21 years been the mainstay of the Congregation, by his generous gifts but more by his genial spirit and encouraging cheerfulness. Looking back, it almost seems as though in 1922 our Greatheart had had a premonition of his leaving us, so hard and so eagerly did he now work to get the Church finances established on the Freewill Offering basis. He gradually won over most of the dubious waverers, wedded to the old ways, and the new system (which for some time had steadily gained ground in the Presbyterian Church) was launched in July, 1922. It has since, under the skilful management of Mr. L. H. Pascall, abundantly proved a boon and a blessing to the congregational revenue. Mr. Goodsir lived long enough to be assured of the success of the venture. After a painful illness, borne with fine Christian fortitude, he died on November 9th, 1922. As was said in his "In Memoriam" tribute, he had been "A Model of Church Treasurers, a munificent Benefactor of his Church ('Lord, I have loved the habitation of Thy House'), a loyal and stalwart Presbyterian, a noble Captain of Industry, a fervent Citizen, Philanthropist and Patriot." A happy man, he lived Christ and went about doing good. Courteous, considerate, a perfect Christian gentleman, he was universally beloved, and we at St. Paul's shall probably not look upon his like again. His noble bequest to the Church that he had helped to found and lovingly watched rise stone by stone was £1,000, which, by the terms of his will, was chiefly devoted to the exquisite Oak Panelling which now adorns the Chancel. This triumph of the craftsman's art was designed by his brother John and, together with the memorial gift of Mrs. Goodsir and her children—the beautiful South Transept Rose and Resurrection Windows—was dedicated on Sunday, October 5th, 1924, the General Secretary of the Church (Rev. W. Lewis Robertson, M.A.) and the Minister of St. Paul's paying high tribute to Mr. Goodsir's great work for the Presbyterian Church at large and



Mr. GEORGE GOODSIR, J.P., 1900—1922.

for the cause in South Croydon. His mantle was assumed by Mr. A. F. Ryan, the present indefatigable and esteemed Church Treasurer.

The West Nativity Window, provided by the pious gifts of Mr. Mackray's many friends and admirers—old and new, in Croydon and far afield—had been unveiled by his daughter on the first Sunday of the same year, Dr. Carter, formerly of St. George's, giving on the occasion a noble appreciation of his revered predecessor in that pulpit. The beautiful series of stained glass windows was continued in May, 1924, when two more Lancets in the North Aisle, gifts of Mrs. Reid and Mrs. Comley, were dedicated to the memory of their respective husbands, "twin pillars of St. Paul's" and successive Session Clerks, intimately identified with the early stages of the Church's history (as has been shown) and close friends for over 40 years in Presbyterian work in Croydon.

In February, 1922, the Croydon and District Free Church Council held its Annual Meetings at St. Paul's, the occasion being the institution to the Presidency for that year of the Minister of the Church. The Rev. R. C. Gillie, M.A., President of the National Free Church Council, preached in the afternoon, and, with the Mayor, took part in the large evening gathering. In April, 1923, there was again an overflowing church at an evening Masonic Service, conducted by the Minister, as the newly appointed Chaplain to Croham Hurst Lodge. This would seem the appropriate point to mention that Mr. Pulford Williams, like each of his two predecessors at St. Paul's, has taken a prominent part in the religious and social life of the Town. He has enjoyed friendly relations with the Bishop and the Vicar of Croydon and with the ministers of all denominations. His counsel, guidance and gift of leadership have been in constant request, as have been also his services on frequent Sunday evenings at the Brotherhood Hall. The Presbytery of London South held an ordinary monthly meeting for the first time at St. Paul's in July, 1923. On four occasions in the quarter century, the Congregation has been visited, more or less "quinquennially," by Presbytery deputations—the latest in 1922,—and on each occasion it has earned a very good degree.

The Congregation has had the privilege of three special seasons of Mission visitation: in 1913 (the late Dr. Harry Guinness, as already stated), in 1925 (Rev. E. G. Miles, M.A., of Felixstowe, in connection with the Croydon General Mission) and early this year (Rev. H. H. Farmer, M.A., of Barnet, Assembly's Missioner of Appeal to the Church).

In the course of nature, a period of 25 years is bound to hold losses in the congregational life. The Senior Office-bearer to-day, Mr. C. Alex. Young, was appointed in 1907. Among those who laid the foundations, the principal figures have passed away, and their names, "loved long since, but lost awhile," have been recorded in this retrospect. In the first ten years, as already shown, 112

names were removed from the Roll, by death or otherwise. Since then, there have been 182 losses, making nearly 300 during the quarter century. I mention these figures to indicate how, in the *va-et-vient* of the congregational life, it is impossible to name more than the outstanding personalities of the past.

Mr. David George, an Original Member, whose beautiful, saintly life and unobtrusive beneficence marked the early years, went from us, full of years and of honour, in 1918.

Mrs. David Goodsir, enthusiastic foster-mother of the cause of Foreign Missions in St. Paul's, who did much "good by stealth," died in 1922.

Mr. Arthur Brooks Gray, inducted an Elder in 1905, was for 19 years associated with the important and exacting work of pew-letting and seat rents. He died, greatly beloved and mourned, in 1924.

Mr. William Mackray, M.A., brother of the first Minister, died in March, 1925, in his 98th year. He was the Nestor and Preses of the Congregation, the last surviving original member of St. George's and a staunch supporter of his ministerial brother and of everything Pauline almost to the end of his long life.

The Sacrament of Baptism has been administered on 94 occasions, and 37 marriages have been solemnised in the Congregation. The names of the chief officials through the years, Clerks, Organists, Secretaries, Treasurers, Editors, Church Officers, &c., will be found in order in the Appendix.

The Pauline, now the monthly publication of the Church, reached its 200th number in January, 1924, and its history, so intimately bound up with that of the Congregation, was given in detail in its celebration pages. With joys and sorrows alternating, it has witnessed and reflected the gradual increase in the strength of the Congregation, which to-day numbers 268 Members and has 297 sittings appropriated.

Here, then, at the 25th milestone, I bring this obviously imperfect history to a close. With such an honourable record of service behind them, present Paulines must surely feel thankful for all the way the Congregation has been led, and grateful to Almighty God, Who Alone has ordered its goings, as also to the wise master-builders and leaders of the past, into whose bright inheritance they have entered.

Even now, may it be that "the best is yet to be."

APPENDIX.

INSCRIPTIONS.

On Foundation Stone of Hall.

"*Deo Soli Gloria.* The Foundation Stone of this Hall was laid on 26 June, 1900, by the Rev. John Watson, M.A., D.D., Moderator of Synod."

On Foundation Stones of Church.

"*Nomine Patris Filii Spiritus Sancti hoc Lapide rite posito inchoatum est opus a viro clarissimo doctissimoque ALEXANDRO BURLEIGHI Barone a.d. VII Kal. Jul. A.O. D.I. MCMIV Carolo Henman Architecto.*"

"*Hanc Aedem sumptibus Piorum in Gloriam Dei Maximi et in usum Ecclesiae exstructam inauguravit Eques illustrissimus GEORGIUS BARCLAY BRUCE Nonis Oct. A.O. D.I. MCMV Archibaldo N. Mackray A.M. Ministro.*"

INSCRIPTIONS ON MEMORIALS WITHIN THE CHURCH.

(In Order of their Erection.)

Brass Tablet on West Wall, in Family Pew.

"Giving Thanks unto God in Remembrance of ALICE GODDARD, Wife of the Rev. Archd. N. MACKRAY, M.A., and Daughter of Col. Wyndham Bewes, 73rd Regt., who died at Inverton, South Croydon, 3rd September, 1911, aged 51 years. 'She hath been a Succourer of many and of myself also.' Erected by her Husband and Family."

Brass Tablet on Pillar, in Family Pew.

"To the Glory of God and in Blessed Memory of ROBERT INGLIS McMINN, Clerk of Session, for 44 years a devoted upholder of the Presbyterian cause in Croydon and a faithful Elder of this Church, from its inception until his death on November 23, 1916, aged 70. A beloved father in the twin sanctuaries of his faithful heart—his family and the Church of God. 'Fervent in spirit, serving the Lord.' Erected by his Sons, Daughters and Grand-children."

**Bronze Tablet and Enamelled Coloured Plaque,
accompanying six Lancet Windows of Early
British Saints, on South Wall.**

“To the Glory of God and in Proud and Precious Memory of Captain ALFRED ERIC RYAN, M.C. (Mentioned in Despatches), 11th Battalion ‘The Queen’s,’ Royal West Surrey Regiment, who served during 1916—1918 in Flanders, Italy and France, and fell in action near Bapaume, 23rd March, 1918, aged 20 years. Mortally wounded, he called to his men, ‘Leave me, boys, and save yourselves.’ Erected by his Father, Mother and Sister, sorrowing yet rejoicing that, being faithful unto death, he has received the Crown of Life.”

East (War Memorial) Window.

“*Fideles usque ad Mortem.* The Window above is dedicated to the memory of Worshippers in this Church, who, during the Great War, 1914—1919, jeopardied their lives for God and Country and the cause of Freedom. Nine of these, whose names follow, went forth and returned not again :

WILLIAM A. BARRIE.	ARTHUR S. GRAY.
PERCY H. BERRY.	EDMUND LL. LEWIS.
HAROLD M. N. CHATTERTON.	HUGH B. McMINN.
EDGAR COMLEY, M.C.	A. ERIC RYAN, M.C.
D. ALEC. STEWART, D.C.M.	

We thank God upon every remembrance of them.”

Brass Tablet on North Wall, beside Family Pew.

“To the Glory of God and in loving Memory of FRANCIS GREEN, who passed to his Heavenly rest, 16 December, 1917, aged 71 years. Ordained a Deacon of St. Paul’s in 1901 and an Elder in 1905. To the welfare of the Congregation and its Mission he gave his prayers, his tender sympathies and loyal service. This Tablet is placed here by his Family as a tribute of affection.”

West Window (The Nativity).

“To the Greater Glory of God and to the beloved Memory of the Rev. ARCHIBALD NEILSON MACKRAY, M.A. (Edin.), Founder and First Minister of this Church, 1901—1907. Died 19th June, 1921, aged 84 years. The Window above is dedicated by many friends who loved the man and revered his character. An eminent Scholar, a faithful Pastor, a prince of Preachers, mighty in the Word and in Prayer, his works do follow him.”



ST. PAUL'S INTERIOR, SHOWING CHANCEL PANELLING, 1924.

Lancet Windows (St. Luke and St. John) in North Aisle.

"In Loving Memory of JOHN JOHNSTONE REID. Born 30th June, 1849. Died 29th February, 1916. Convener of Building Committee and first Session Clerk. 'He was zealous for his God.'"

"In Loving Memory of THOMAS BELFIELD COMLEY. Born 7th April, 1843. Died 25th May, 1919. Session Clerk of this Congregation. 'Well done, thou good and faithful Servant.'"

Carved Oak Panelling in Chancel.

"A.D. 1924. *Ad Maiorem Dei Gloriam*. This Panelling is the Bequest of the late GEORGE GOODSIR, J.P., of Wallacefield, Croydon, a Founder, Elder, and, for the first twenty-one years, Treasurer of this Congregation. Zealous for the prosperity of his Church and the Commonwealth, rich in sympathy, strong and tender, a large-hearted benefactor, an inspiring leader, he was greatly beloved and honoured. The springs of his life were in God, with Whom he walked in sincerity and truth. 'Lord, I have loved the habitation of Thy house and the place where Thine honour dwelleth.'"

South Transept Windows (The Resurrection).

"To the Glory of God and in loving Memory of GEORGE GOODSIR, born 19th October, 1857; died 9th November, 1922. Erected by his Wife and Children."

LIST OF ORIGINAL BENEFACTIONS.

(Hall and Church, 1901—1905.)

Mr. Thomas Barefoot	...	...	Organ Copy of <i>Church Praise</i> .
Mrs. Barefoot and Mrs. Wilson Potter	...	...	Curtains and Cushions for Hall.
Mr. P. B. Beddow	...	...	Organ Music and Hymnary.
Mr. and Mrs. B. A. Berry	...	...	Small Organ for Hall.
Mrs. Edmund Brown	...	...	Vestry Mirror.
Mr. T. B. Comley	...	...	Pulpit Bibles.
Mrs. Comley	...	...	Brazen Flower Vases for Communion Table.
Mr. Henry Darley	...	...	Clock in Hall.
Mr. David George	...	...	Oak Pulpit and Silver Communion Service
Mr. George Goodsir	...	...	Furniture, Carpet and Curtains for Minister's (now Office-bearers') Vestry, Plants and Shrubs for Garden.
Mrs. Goodsir	...	...	Offertory Bags (first set).
Mr. Francis Green	...	...	Cut Glass Water Bottle and Tumbler.
Mrs. Haddock	...	...	Communion Table, Dressing Table for Gentlemen's Cloak Room (In Memory of Mr. J. P. C. Haddock).
Mr. C. H. Henman (Architect)	...	...	Lectern and Framed Drawings of Church Buildings.
Mr. William Jeater	...	...	Copies of Title Deeds and Plans, Process Block of Drawing of Church Buildings, Inscriptions in Pulpit Bibles, certain framed Notices in Corridor, Selection of Church Anthems.
Rev. A. N. Mackray, M.A.	...	...	Books for Young People's Service.
Mrs. Mackray	...	...	Church Crockery, Plate and Bronze Urns, Missionary Library Book Case and Volumes.
Members of Guild of Women Workers	...	...	Sewing Machine.
Mr. R. I. McMinn	...	...	Moderator's Chair.
Mr. E. R. Morris	...	...	Printed Pew Cards (original).
Mr. F. J. Oxtoby	...	...	Superintendence of Laying out the Grounds and Erection of original Iron Fencing.
Mr. J. J. Reid	...	...	Cost of Laying out the Grounds, Trees and Shrubs, Notice Board, Tea Table and Trestles, Pulpit Copy of <i>Church Praise</i> .
Mrs. Reid	...	...	Congregational and Communion Table Linen.
Dr. J. E. Scott	...	...	Pewter Bowl for Font, Offertory Bags (second set).
Miss Dorothy M. Young	...	...	Mat for Moderator's Chair.

MINISTERS OF ST. PAUL'S.

REV. A. N. MACKRAY, M.A., born at Stirling, educated Royal High School (English Dux) and University of Edinburgh (New College), Cunningham Divinity Prizeman, 1865. Ordained and Inducted, Kirkurd, Peebles-shire, 1865; St. David's, Ashfield, New South Wales, 1868; St. Andrew's, Torquay, 1872; St. George's, Croydon, 1886; St. Paul's, South Croydon, 1901. Resigned, 1907. Minister Emeritus, Presbytery of London South, 1908. Died 1921, aged 84.

REV. HENRY CROMBIE, University of Glasgow and English Presbyterian College. Ordained and Inducted, Finchley, 1893; Fairfield, Liverpool, 1900; Park United Free Church of Scotland, Helensburgh, 1905; St. Paul's, South Croydon, 1909. Resigned, 1917. Organising Secretary and Chaplain, Y.M.C.A., 1918. Inducted, St. Aidan's United Free Church of Scotland, Melrose, 1919.

REV. J. PULFORD WILLIAMS, B.A. (Wales), Bala College. Ordained and Inducted, Runcorn, 1891; Roath Park, Cardiff, 1895; St. Andrew's, Chatham, 1904; College Road, Newcastle, 1907; Willesden, 1912; St. Paul's, South Croydon, 1918.

ELDERS.

- 1901 Mr. Henry Darley (resigned, 1906; died, 1918). Mr. William Jeater (resigned, 1906; died, 1919). Mr. R. I. McMinn (died, 1916). Mr. J. J. Reid (died, 1916).
- 1905 Mr. Thomas Barefoot (resigned, 1908; died, 1917). Mr. A. B. Gray (died, 1924). Mr. Francis Green (died, 1917).
- 1907 Mr. Edward Carlile (resigned, 1908). Mr. T. B. Comley (died, 1919). Mr. George Goodsir (died, 1922).
- 1910 Mr. T. H. Ledger (resigned, 1918).
- 1918 Mr. Henry Fraser, F.C.A. Mr. J. F. Parker. Mr. R. S. Sligh. (Assessors, inducted, 1919.)
- 1919 Mr. R. S. McMinn, B.A. Mr. Francis Weston, F.S.A. Mr. W. T. Wilson.
- 1921 Mr. W. E. Gawthorp, F.S.A. Scot. Mr. E. H. Mason. Mr. F. J. Oxtoby. Mr. J. B. Stevenson, M.C., M.B., Ch.B.
- 1926 Mr. A. C. Gapp. Mr. Archibald Page. Mr. L. H. Pascall. Mr. Walter Scott. Mr. W. H. B. Williams.

SESSION CLERKS.

- 1901 Mr. J. J. Reid. Mr. R. I. McMinn.
- 1908 Mr. J. J. Reid (died, 1916).
- 1916 Mr. R. I. McMinn (died, 1916).
- 1917-18 Mr. T. B. Comley and Mr. George Goodsir, J.P. (res., 1918).
- 1919 Mr. T. B. Comley (died, 1919).
- 1919 Mr. Henry Fraser.

SYNOD AND ASSEMBLY REPRESENTATIVES.

1902	Mr. Henry Darley.	1917-18	None.
1903-04	Mr. J. J. Reid.	1919	Mr. W. T. Wilson.
1905	Mr. William Jeater.	1920	Mr. George Goodsir, J.P.
1906	None.	1921	Mr. Henry Fraser.
1907	Mr. R. I. McMinn.	1922	Mr. R. S. McMinn, B.A.
1908	None.	1923	Mr. E. H. Mason.
1909-11	Mr. R. I. McMinn.	1924	Mr. R. S. Sligh.
1912	Mr. T. B. Comley.	1925-26	Mr. E. H. Mason.
1913-16	Mr. R. I. McMinn.		

PRESBYTERY REPRESENTATIVES.

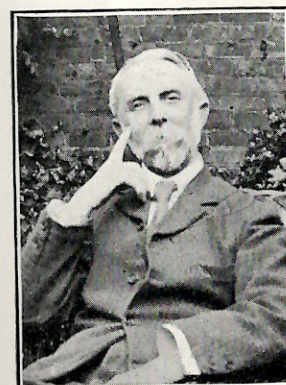
1901	Mr. J. J. Reid.	1913	Mr. A. B. Gray.
1904	Mr. R. I. McMinn.	1914	Mr. George Goodsir.
1905	Mr. Henry Darley.	1921	Mr. R. S. McMinn, B.A.
1906	Mr. William Jeater.	1923	Mr. W. T. Wilson.
1907	Mr. Thomas Barefoot.	1924	Mr. E. H. Mason and Mr. W. T. Wilson.
1908	Mr. T. B. Comley.	1925	Mr. E. H. Mason and Mr. J. F. Parker.
1910	Mr. Francis Green.	1926	Mr. Henry Fraser and Mr. J. F. Parker.
1911	Mr. George Goodsir.		
1912	Mr. T. H. Ledger.		

DEACONS.

1901	Mr. Thomas Barefoot (died, 1917).	Mr. George Goodsir (died, 1922).	Mr. Francis Green (died, 1917).	Mr. J. P. C. Haddock (died, 1902).
1902	Mr. E. D. Brown (resigned, 1912).	Mr. A. B. Gray (died, 1924).	Mr. T. H. Ledger.	
1905	Mr. P. B. Beddow (resigned, 1917).	Mr. Edward Carlile.	Mr. Hugh Lewis (resigned, 1912).	Dr. J. Easton Scott (resigned, 1906).
	Mr. J. W. Slack (resigned, 1915).			
1907	Mr. J. S. Duncan (resigned, 1908).	Mr. C. A. Young.		
1910	Mr. R. S. McMinn, B.A.	Mr. A. F. Ryan.	Mr. Harold Williams (resigned, 1920).	
1912	Mr. James Binning (died, 1918).	Mr. John Scott (retired, 1918).		
1919	Mr. M. S. Chatterton (resigned, 1920).	Mr. D. J. Goodsir.	Mr. H. S. Jones.	Mr. F. J. Oxtoby.
	Mr. William Penman.	Mr. Walter Scott.	Mr. F. G. Waddington (resigned, 1924).	
1922	Mr. J. R. S. Duncan (resigned, 1923).	Mr. W. T. Goodsir.	Mr. Archibald Page.	Mr. L. H. Pascall.
	Mr. John Ramsay (resigned, 1924).			
1923	Mr. W. R. Charles.	Mr. J. S. Chown, M.C.	Mr. F. H. Thomson.	



Mr. J. J. REID, 1900—1916.



Mr. R. I. McMINN, 1900—1916.



Mr. T. B. COMLEY, 1900—1919.

CLERKS OF DEACONS' COURT.

- 1901 Mr. Thomas Barefoot (died, 1917).
 1905 Mr. E. D. Brown (resigned, 1912).
 1912 Mr. J. W. Slack (resigned, 1915).
 1916 Mr. James Binning (died, 1918).
 1918 Mr. R. S. McMinn, B.A. (*pro tem.*).
 1919 Mr. H. S. Jones (resigned, 1923).
 1924 Mr. J. S. Chown, M.C.

CONGREGATIONAL TREASURERS.

- 1901 Mr. George Goodsir.
 1915 Mr. T. H. Ledger (*pro tem.*).
 1918 Mr. George Goodsir, J.P.
 1921 Mr. George Goodsir, J.P., and Mr. A. F. Ryan.
 1922 Mr. A. F. Ryan and Mr. L. H. Pascall.

TREASURERS OF PEW RENTS.

- 1901 Mr. Francis Green and Mr. William Jeater.
 1903 Mr. A. B. Gray and Mr. William Jeater.
 1903 Mr. A. B. Gray.
 1922 Mr. D. J. Goodsir.
 1923 Mr. F. G. Waddington.
 1925 Mr. W. T. Goodsir.

TREASURERS OF SYNODICAL (ASSEMBLY) FUNDS.

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1901 Mr. J. P. C. Haddock. | 1914 Mr. A. F. Ryan. |
| 1902 Mr. Francis Green. | 1919 Mr. C. A. Young. |
| 1905 Dr. J. E. Scott. | 1924 Mr. L. H. Pascall. |
| 1906 Mr. T. H. Ledger. | |

EDITORS OF THE CONGREGATIONAL YEAR-BOOK (MANUAL).

- 1902-16 Mr. R. I. McMinn,
 1920-26 Mr. R. S. McMinn, B.A.

EDITORS OF "THE PAULINE."

- 1904-07 Rev. A. N. Mackray, M.A.
 1908-15 Mr. Watson Slack.
 1916-26 Mr. R. S. McMinn, B.A.

SECRETARIES, &c., OF THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

Afternoon Services for Young People.

- 1901 Miss Hilda Wheatley.
 1907 Miss Edith J. Gray.
 1909 Mrs. Ryan.
 1910 Mrs. Ryan and Miss Iris Goodsir.
 1912 Mrs. Ryan and Miss D. M. Young (Primary Department).

Graded Sunday School.

- 1914 Mr. Walter Scott.
 1916 Mr. Walter Scott and Mrs. Ryan (*Organiser*).
 1923 Mr. S. G. Read.
 1925 Miss Myra Llewellyn.

SECRETARIES OF THE LITERARY AND SOCIAL GUILD.

- 1901-08 Mr. F. A. McMinn.
 1909-10 Mr. T. B. Comley and Miss Ethel E. Link.
 1911-13 Mr. R. S. McMinn, B.A., and Mr. W. M. Young.
 1914 Mr. C. H. Reid.
 1915-18 Mr. R. S. McMinn (*Acting*).
 1919-21 Mr. J. R. S. Duncan.
 1921 Mr. W. E. Gawthorp, F.S.A. Scot., and Mr. D. A. Goodsir.
 1922 Mr. J. R. S. Duncan and Mr. D. A. Goodsir.
 1923 Mr. D. A. Goodsir; Messrs. A. E. Williamson and David Williamson, Junior.
 1924 Mr. A. E. Williamson and Mr. David Williamson, Junior.
 1924-25 Mr. Laurier Lister.
 1925-26 Miss Elizabeth E. McLellan and Miss M. Doreen Williams.

Prize Winners in the "Leone Levi" Essay Competition

(Promoted by the London Presbyterian Literary Societies' Union).

- 1902 Miss Millicent M. Potter. 1st Prize. (Essay: "Henry Vaughan—Silurist.")
 1912 Mr. A. Percy Allan, M.D., B.S. 1st Prize. (Essay: "Hypnotism.")
 1913 Mr. R. S. McMinn, B.A. 1st Prize. (Essay: "Robert Herrick.")

CHOIRMASTERS AND ORGANISTS.

- 1901 Mr. William Jeater.
 1906 Mr. H. M. Mead, F.R.C.O.
 1916 Mr. P. B. Beddow and Mr. G. P. Harris.
 1917 Mr. R. W. Oxtoby.
 1920 Mr. A. C. Osman.
 1925 Mr. W. A. Godfrey.

CHOIR SECRETARIES.

- 1906 Mr. H. V. Gray (first appointment).
 1909 Mr. W. M. Young and Miss McMinn.
 1912 Mr. J. W. Gray.
 1919 Mr. J. W. Gray and Miss McMinn.
 1920 Mr. J. W. Gray.
 1922 Mr. A. S. Carruthers (Treasurer, Mr. J. W. Gray).
 1924 Mr. W. E. Gawthorp, F.S.A. Scot. (*pro tem.*).
 1926 Miss D. M. Young.

SECRETARIES OF THE WOMEN'S MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION.

(St. Paul's Branch.)

- 1901 Mrs. George Goodsir.
 1902 Mrs. Morris.
 1912 Miss E. E. Mawby.
 1914 Miss Mawby and Mrs. J. S. Duncan (died, 1922).
 1915 Miss E. L. Bewes.
 1925 Mrs. McLellan.

SECRETARIES OF THE GUILD OF WOMEN WORKERS
(DORCAS SOCIETY).

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1901 Mrs. J. D. Link. | 1915 Mrs. Holman. |
| 1907 Mrs. Carlile. | 1918 Miss I. H. Johnston. |
| 1908 Mrs. George Goodsir. | 1919 Miss H. M. Thomson. |
| 1912 Mrs. Slack. | 1920 Mrs. H. S. Jones. |

TREASURERS OF THE FLOWER FUND.

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1901 Mrs. Comley. | 1925 Miss V. G. Read. |
| 1920 Miss M. E. Housden. | 1926 Miss E. E. McLellan. |
| 1923 Miss G. L. Gawthorp. | |

Distributor: Mr. J. W. Gray.

CHURCH OFFICERS.

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 1901 Mr. W. J. Bowles. | 1912 Mr. Frank Lott. |
| 1916 Mr. J. H. Barrell. | |