

## PICCADILLY TO KENSINGTON.

ROUTE IV.—PICCADILLY—THE ROYAL ACADEMY—PARK LANE—HYDE PARK—KENSINGTON GARDENS—KENSINGTON PALACE.

**W**E will assume this time that the start is made from *Piccadilly Circus* (Plan III. I. 8). This busy spot is a very important traffic "hub," main thoroughfares radiating hence to north south, east and west. In the centre is Gilbert's fine *Shaftesbury Memorial Fountain*, surmounted by a lightly poised figure of Eros (love). The great philanthropist died 1st October, 1885, "an example to his order, a blessing to his people, and a name to be by them ever gratefully remembered," as the inscription, penned, it is interesting to recall, by Mr. Gladstone, records. At the south-east corner is the *Criterion Theatre*, with *Piccadilly Circus Station* adjoining; on the northern side, at the corner of Shaftesbury Avenue, is the *London Pavillion*. A great scheme of reconstruction is in progress here. Close at hand is the *Regent Palace Hotel*, with entrance in Glasshouse Street.

Resisting for a while the blandishments of Regent Street, which sweeps northward, we turn along—

### Piccadilly,

(Plan III. H. 9 and I. 8)

one of London's finest and most attractive thoroughfares. It is said to derive its name from the pickadils, or ruffs, worn in the early Stuart period. Commencing at *Piccadilly Circus*, it extends westward for nearly a mile to Hyde Park Corner, and is continued as Knightsbridge, Kensington High Street and Kensington Road to Hammersmith, after which it forms the great Bath Road to the West of England. It is thronged at nearly all hours of the day. The eastern portion was a few years ago set back on the northern side to give a width of 80 ft. and is occupied by shops, but the western portion, skirting the Green Park, is overlooked by numbers of fine mansions and clubs. The imposing *Piccadilly Hotel*, with frontage both to *Piccadilly* and *Regent Street*, occupies the site of St. James's Hall, or "Jimmy's," long famous among music-lovers. The hotel is one of the most luxurious in London, a notable feature being the classic colonnade on the first floor. At the corner of the Circus we have the well-known establishment of *Messrs. Swan & Edgar*, recently taken over by Messrs. Harrod's

and to be replaced by a loftier building. On the other side of the road is Messrs. J. Lyons & Co.'s *Popular Café*, accommodating 2,000 persons.

The **Museum of Practical Geology** (p. 111) is entered from Jermyn Street. **St. James's Church**, lying a little back from the road, was built by Wren in 1684, and, though plain and unadorned without, has a very fine interior, with font and altar carvings by Grinling Gibbons. It is also notable as possessing an open-air pulpit. At No. 191 are the galleries in which are held the spring and autumn exhibitions of the **Royal Institute of Painters in Water Colours** and the **Royal Institute of Oil Painters**. Occupying the ground floor of the same block is *Prince's Restaurant*, richly decorated in the Louis XVI. style. Another well-known restaurant is *Hatchett's*, on the opposite side of Piccadilly, where used to stand the old "White Horse Cellars," the starting-place of West of England coaches.

On the north side of Piccadilly, between Sackville Street and Burlington House, is the quaint, old-fashioned **Albany**, so frequently figuring in novels of the last century. These bachelor chambers have had many distinguished tenants, including Byron, George Canning, Bulwer Lytton and Lord Macaulay (the famous *History* was written here).

At No. 20, **Savile Row**, to the north, Sidney Smith resided from 1827 to 1832; No. 14 was the last home of Sheridan; and at No. 12, Grote lived and wrote his *History*. The Row is famous for its tailoring establishments.

### The Royal Academy of Arts.

#### Plan III. I. 8.

**Admission.**—The Summer Exhibition (1s. 3d., including entertainments tax) is held from the first week in May to the middle of August (9 a.m. to 7 p.m.). Winter exhibits, January and February, 9 till 5 (1s. 3d.). The Gibson and Diploma Galleries are reached by a staircase to right of main entrance (free daily from 11 to 4).

**Catalogues.**—Official Catalogue, 1s.

**Nearest Stations.**—Dover Street (Piccadilly Tube), Piccadilly Circu. (Piccadilly and Bakerloo Tubes).

**Burlington House** was erected early in the eighteenth century by Richard Boyle, Earl of Burlington, and purchased by the Government in 1854 at a cost of £140,000. A number of extensions have since been made, and a storey added. The Royal Academy occupies the inner or northern portion, while various learned societies are accommodated in the blocks on either side. The best known of these societies is the **Royal Society**, incorporated by Royal Charter in 1662. Its roll of Fellows and Presidents includes such illustrious names as those of Newton, Halley, Davy, Darwin, Kelvin, and many others. Members append the letters F.R.S. to their names. The Society's Library contains about 50,000 volumes, some fine portraits and busts, Newton's tele-



*Levy, Sons & Co.,*

[118 Holborn.]

PICCADILLY CIRCUS.



*London.*

THE MARBLE ARCH.



Photos]

[Kotary and Levy.

WELLINGTON ARCH, CONSTITUTION HILL—ROTTEN ROW—  
HYDE PARK CORNER.

scope, the original model of Davy's safety lamp, and other objects of interest. Admission by order of a Fellow. Other bodies include the **Geological, Chemical, Royal Astronomical and Linnean Societies**, the **Society of Antiquaries of London**, and the **British Association for the Advancement of Science**. The libraries and museums of these Societies can generally be seen on application.

Crossing the inner court, we reach the part best known to the public. The **Royal Academy of Arts** was founded by George III. in 1768, its first President being Sir Joshua Reynolds. From 1838 to 1869 the annual exhibitions were held in the National Gallery. There are forty Royal Academicians (who add R.A. to their names) and about thirty Associates (A.R.A.), as well as a number of retired and foreign Academicians and Associates. The **Annual Exhibition** usually opens on the first Monday in May, and is preceded by the "Private View"—a Society function in which dress plays at least as important a part as Art—and the "Academy Dinner," generally presided over by royalty, and attended by leading politicians of all parties. The pictures to be shown are selected by a "Hanging Committee," whose judgments by no means always commend themselves to the general body of artists. The works must have been finished during the previous year and not exhibited elsewhere. The building occupied by the Academy is in the Renaissance style, with a façade adorned by statuettes of famous artists. In the upper part are the **Gibson and Diploma Galleries**, with pictures presented by Academicians on their election, the **Gibson Collection of Sculptures**, and some valuable old masters. A study by *Leonardo da Vinci* is a special attraction, and another interesting feature is Sir Joshua Reynolds's "sitters' chair."

Behind the Academy, and occupying the northern part of the gardens of the old mansion, is a fine building in the Italian style, erected in 1869, and formerly occupied by London University. The building is now used by the Civil Service Commission, which conducts competitive examinations for candidates desirous of entering Government service.

On the west side of Burlington House is the **Burlington Arcade**, a long covered way, for the most part sacred to hosiers, boot-makers and jewellers. The **Royal Arcade** is a similar structure connecting Old Bond Street and Albemarle Street. The **Piccadilly Arcade**, on the south side of Piccadilly, provides a shop-lined covered way between that thoroughfare and Jermyn Street.

Continuing westward, we pass the foot of **Old Bond Street**, where are many famous shops and the galleries of a number of well-known art dealers. It runs northward to Oxford Street, the upper and wider portion being known as **New Bond Street**. On No. 147, New Bond Street (west side) is a tablet recording that Nelson lived there, but the house has been entirely rebuilt. Old and New Bond Streets are also

## 118 ALBEMARLE STREET—BERKELEY SQUARE

noted for their jewellery shops and motor-car depôts. The famous thoroughfare,

"Where each who wills may suit his wish,  
Here choose a Guido—there his fish,"

takes its name from Sir Thomas Bond, by whom it was built in 1686.

**Albemarle Street** is so named from the second Duke of Albemarle, son of General Monk. Near the top is the **Royal Institution**, founded in 1799 for the promotion and teaching of science. The lectures given to juvenile audiences in the weeks succeeding Christmas always attract wide attention. Next door, at No. 20, is the **Davy-Faraday Laboratory**, presented by the late Dr. Ludwig Mond. At No. 7 is the **Aeronautical Society of Great Britain**, which has done so much for the science of aviation. At No. 22 is the **Royal Asiatic Society**, with a large library dealing with the manners and customs of the East.

**St. James's Street**, running south from Piccadilly to Holbein's fine gateway at St. James's Palace, we have described on p. 111.

No. 20, **Arlington Street** was long the town mansion of the Marquess of Salisbury. No. 5, now an annexe of the Devonshire Club, was for years the residence of Sir Robert Walpole, and later of his son, Horace Walpole. No. 16 was long the town house of the Dukes of Rutland; Fox lived for a time at No. 14. The **Ritz** is one of the most sumptuous of London's hotels. The restaurant overlooks the **Green Park** (p. 106), which borders the south side of Piccadilly all the rest of the way to Hyde Park Corner, affording the favoured occupants of houses on the other side a magnificent view across the greensward to Westminster. Between Berkeley Street and Stratton Street is **Devonshire House**, formerly the town residence of the Duke of Devonshire. It was sold in 1919 and the site will probably be occupied by a large block of modern buildings. The fine iron gateway has been moved across the road to the edge of the Green Park.

**Berkeley Street** (Pope lived for a time at No. 9) leads to **Berkeley Square** (Plan III. H. 8), noted for its plane trees, and reminding one of Thackeray's "Jeames of Barkley Square." South of the Square is **Lansdowne House** (Marquis of Lansdowne), designed by the famous architect Adam. It was while living here as librarian that Priestley discovered oxygen.

Nearly every house in Berkeley Square has a past or present association of interest, the past being especially recalled by the quaint ironwork and the torch extinguishers in front of the doors. At No. 17 lived Lord Rowton, philanthropist and secretary to "Dizzy." At No. 11 (formerly 40) Horace Walpole died in 1797; at No. 10 Lord Clyde (1863); and at No. 45, still occupied by the Earl of Powis, a descendant, Clive committed suicide in 1774.

West of Berkeley Square, in Farm Street, is the **Church of the Jesuit Fathers**, begun in 1849, and recently completed. Here Cardinal Manning was received into the Church of Rome.

No. 80, Piccadilly, at the corner of Bolton Street, long the residence of Sir Francis Burdett, the reformer, and, later, of the Baroness Burdett-Coutts, is now, with the adjoining house, the **Royal Thames Yacht Club**. No. 85 is the **Turf Club**.

Continuing along the north side of Piccadilly, we pass the foot of **Clarges Street**, taking its name from Nan Clarges, the needle-woman, whose father was a blacksmith, and who married General Monk, and became Duchess of Albemarle. At No. 12 lived Edmund Kean.

Beyond **Half Moon Street**, deriving its peculiar name from a non-existent tavern, at one time of considerable repute, are the **Naval and Military Club** (No. 94, formerly occupied by Lord Palmerston) and the **American Club**.

White Horse Street leads to **Shepherd Market** which has been described as "a modest little country town . . . small but busy . . . a strange survival set in this most aristocratic quarter."

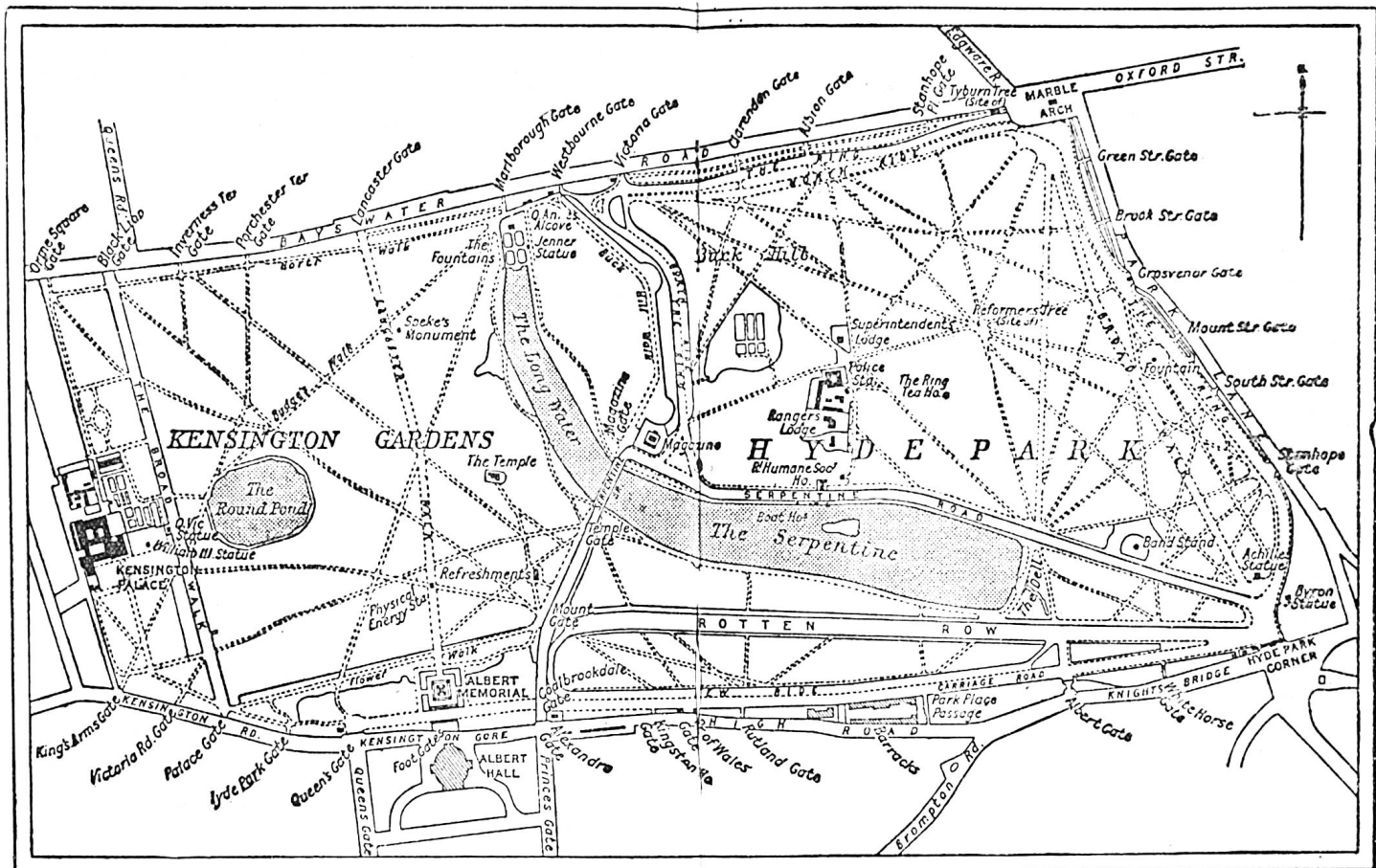
Continuing along Piccadilly we pass the **Badminton, Junior Constitutional, Isthmian, St. James's, Savile, Junior Athenæum, Cavalry** and other clubs. At No. 128 is the **Royal Air Force Club**, and at 138 the **Lyceum Club** for ladies. In the stately mansions between Hamilton Place and Apsley House several members of the Rothschild family reside.

**Apsley House** (Plan III. H. 9), the residence of the Duke of Wellington, was presented to the Great Duke by the nation in 1820, as part of the reward for his services.

It was originally built in 1785 as a red-brick mansion for Lord Chancellor Bathurst, who, it is said, in order to secure the land, had to buy out the proprietor of an apple-stall, an old soldier to whom George II., in an excess of generosity, had given the site as a reward for bravery at the battle of Dettingen. Some fine pictures are displayed in the gallery on the first floor, and in the Waterloo Chamber, where the annual Waterloo dinner was always held; but admission is not often granted to strangers. During the Reform Bill agitation the mob smashed the windows, so the Duke had them encased in iron shutters. Later, when the changeable crowd followed him with cheers from Constitution Hill, he took no notice until the shutters were in sight, when he bowed sarcastically and passed into the court without a word.

In the roadway island opposite is a fine equestrian **Statue of the Duke of Wellington**, by Boehm.

Turning up **Hamilton Place**, we have on the left an enclosed portion of Hyde Park to which only privileged persons have



Copyright

Scale of 1/4 Mile

WARD, LOCK & CO. LTD. 20, Abchurch Lane, London E.C. 4

HYDE PARK AND KENSINGTON GARDENS.



access. It contains a *Statue of Lord Byron*, erected by public subscription. At the junction of the road with Park Lane is a handsome *Fountain*, by Thornycroft, with well-executed figures of Shakespeare, Milton and Chaucer, surmounted by Fame.

**Park Lane** (Plan III. G. and H. 8 and 9), overlooking the eastern side of Hyde Park, is one of the most famous of London thoroughfares. Its fine mansions, no two of which are alike, are certainly calculated to excite cupidity in even the most contented breast. Several of the more recent were erected by successful financial speculators. It may relieve some harassed policeman, who probably has to answer questions on the subject almost every day, if we name the principal mansions.

Starting from the Piccadilly end we have, between Brick Street and Hertford Street, **London-derry House** (Marquis of London-derry). (Lytton wrote *Rienzi* and *The Last Days of Pompeii* at 36, Hertford Street). No. 25, the house at the corner of Great Stanhope Street, now the residence of Sir Philip Sassoon, Bart., was built by the ill-fated Barney Barnato, but never occupied by him. No. 26 is occupied by the *Argentine Republic Legation*. The large mansion just beyond is **Dorchester House**, containing a famous collection of pictures, and with a massive marble staircase said to have cost £30,000. This house has several times been placed at the temporary disposal of foreign potentates visiting London, and was the residence of the late Mr. Whitelaw Reid when American Ambassador. We see also the side and back of **Grosvenor House** (Duke of Westminster), entered from Upper Grosvenor Street. It contained one of the finest private collections of pictures in London, including originals by Rubens, Rembrandt, Paul Potter, Hobbema, Murillo, Gainsborough, and others. During the War it served as the headquarters of the Ministry of Food. 29, Park Lane, was the residence from 1839 to 1873 of Benjamin Disraeli, Earl of Beaconsfield (tablet). At the opposite corner is **Brook House**, for some time the residence of the late Sir Ernest Cassel.

Between Park Lane and Bond Street lies the "blue-blooded" and reverently regarded district of **Mayfair**, for which the visitor may look in vain in the Directory, for it has no parochial or other official recognition. The name is the only survival of the old May Fair, an annual scene of debauchery suppressed at the end of the eighteenth century.

In **Curzon Street** (Plan III. H. 8), on the site of Sunderland House, stood a Chapel long famous for marriages at a minute's notice. Hasty beauties and eager swains were here tied together with the utmost celerity; and it is said that no fewer than 6,000 pairs were thus united in one year. The beautiful Miss Chudleigh was wedded in this fashion to the Duke of Kingston; and the

still more beautiful Miss Gunning, the youngest of the lovely sisterhood who turned the heads of young Englishmen at that period, came nither with the Duke of Hamilton, half an hour after midnight, and was married with a bed-curtain ring.

At the corner of this street and South Audley Street is **Chesterfield House**, where the famous letters were penned, and in a room of which E. M. Ward's well-known picture represents Dr. Johnson impatiently awaiting an audience with his patron. At 25, **Brook Street**, Handel lived for over thirty years, as a tablet records. In this street is *Claridge's Hotel*. In **Grosvenor Square** (Plan III. H. 8), one of the finest squares in London, live some of the leading members of the aristocracy. No. 10 is the **Japanese Embassy**. No. 20 the **Italian Embassy**. Lord Lytton, the novelist, lived at No. 12. At No. 35 (south-west corner) John Wilkes died in 1797.

We now return to **Hyde Park Corner** (Plan III. H. 9—station on Piccadilly Tube), another of London's landmarks, and a busy omnibus centre. Park Lane runs northward; to the east is Piccadilly; to the west Knightsbridge, bordering the south side of Hyde Park; while to the south Grosvenor Place leads directly to Victoria, and Constitution Hill to Buckingham Palace. The large building at the corner of Grosvenor Place is **St. George's Hospital**. At the entrance to the Green Park (p. 106) is the **Wellington Arch**, surmounted by Major Adrian Jones's imposing quadriga. The arch is matched in grace by the **Screen** entrance to Hyde Park, a triple gateway erected in 1826 from the designs of Decimus Burton. The reliefs are copied from the **Elgin Marbles**.

### Hyde Park

(Plan III. F., G. and H. 8 and 9)

has an area of 361 acres, and is joined on the west by **Kensington Gardens** (Plan III. E., and F., 8 and 9), with 275 acres, the two together forming London's finest lung. From Park Lane to Kensington Palace is about a mile and a half, while from Marble Arch to Hyde Park Corner is the best part of a mile. What London owes to this delightful stretch of greenery can never be told. Prior to the Dissolution the park formed part of the Manor of Hyde, and was the property of the Abbey of Westminster. By Henry VIII. it was converted into a deer park and under the Stuarts it was used for horse-racing. King William and Queen Anne caused a number of improvements to be made; but it is to Queen Caroline, the consort of George II., that we owe its most

attractive feature, the **Serpentine**, an artificial sheet of water, stretching from Lancaster Gate in a south-easterly direction to the **Dell**, opposite Albert Gate, and having with the Long Water an area of 41 acres. Notice boards point the way to the various gates (see plan, pp. 120-121).

Carts and waggons are not allowed to enter, and taxi-cabs are restricted to the roadway between the Victoria and Alexandra Gates. Cyclists may use all roads open to carriage traffic. The speed of motor vehicles is limited to twelve miles an hour, and they are not allowed to use the road between the Achilles statue and the Powder Magazine.

**Chairs.**—A penny ticket entitles one to the use during the day of a chair in Hyde Park, Kensington Gardens, St. James's, or the Green Park.

**Bathing** is allowed in the Serpentine from 5 to 8 a.m., and on summer evenings during certain hours. A few hardy enthusiasts have achieved a well-earned notoriety by taking their morning dip all the year round.

**Boating** can be enjoyed for 1s. to 1s. 6d. per hour (boathouse on north side, close to the Humane Society's Receiving House).

**Teas**, light luncheons, etc., can be obtained at the Ring Tea House, between the Marble Arch and the Serpentine, and also at the Tea House in Kensington Gardens, near the Serpentine Bridge.

Entering from Hyde Park Corner, we have on the left the well-known **Rotten Row**, a corruption of *route du roi*, a course of a mile and a half reserved for riders. The drive adjoining is thronged on fine afternoons in the season with the motors and carriages of the aristocracy. On the north side of the Serpentine is the **Ladies' Mile**. The **Bandstand** is occupied on summer evenings by a first-class band. The **Ring Tea House**, a little north of the Serpentine, is a popular recent addition to the amenities of the Park. The "Ring" was a great resort of rank and fashion in Stuart and Commonwealth times.

The **Flower Beds** on the Park Lane side, and between the Serpentine and Hyde Park Corner, are in spring and summer a blaze of colour, the successive displays of flowers in season attracting thousands of admirers. Near Apsley House is a bronze *Statue*, by Westmacott, erected by the women of England to *Arthur, Duke of Wellington* and his brave companions in arms. It is popularly supposed to represent Achilles, but is really a copy of one of the figures on Monte Cavallo, at Rome. The metal was obtained from cannon taken in the Peninsular War and at Waterloo.

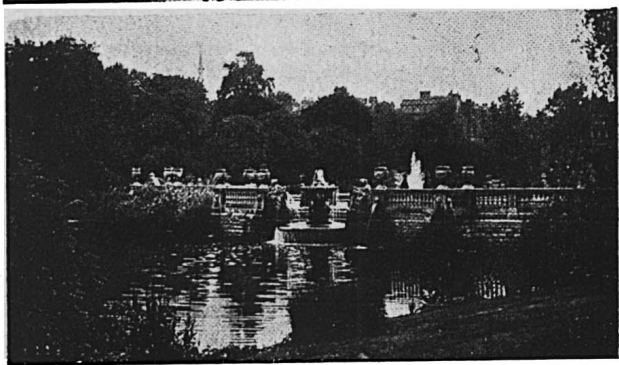
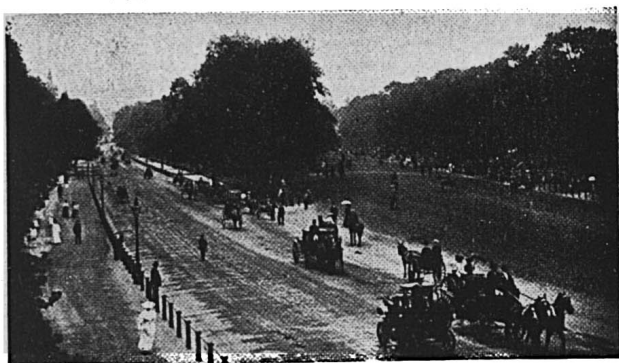
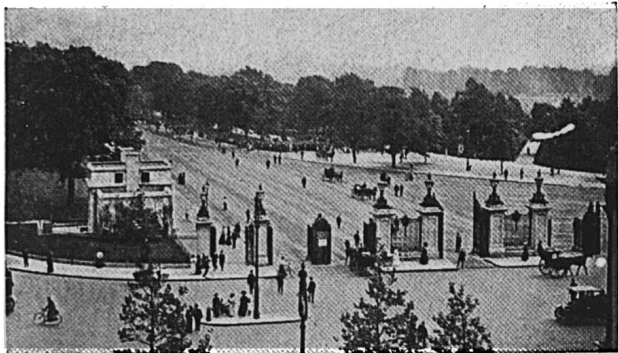
Their leafy glades and vistas give to Kensington Gardens a charm denied to Hyde Park, the northern part of which is for the most part bare and flat. Advantage is taken of this fact by the promoters of political meetings and demonstrations, which often attain to huge proportions.



*A. Rischgitz,*

STATUE OF PETER PAN, KENSINGTON GARDENS.

[*London.*



*[Kilbury Series.]*  
HYDE PARK GATES—ROTTEN ROW—THE FOUNTAINS, KENSINGTON GARDENS.

## The Marble Arch,

(Plan III. G. 8)

at the north-east corner of the Park, was intended by George IV. to form the portal of Buckingham Palace. It cost £80,000, and the gates another £3,000. The sculptures are by Bailey, Westmacott, and Rossi. The arch was placed in its present position in 1851. This is one of the busiest corners in London, a recent census showing that between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. no fewer than 29,320 vehicles passed, or over 40 a minute. With a view to relieving this congestion, the park boundary, was a few years ago set back some 180 ft., leaving the Marble Arch in the centre of a spacious "circulating area." Gates of hammered ironwork and a piazza, 450 ft. long, have replaced the former railings.

To the west of Hyde Park are Kensington Gardens, which with their broad avenues and charming water scenery give sudden surprises of landscape scarcely surpassed for beauty in any part of England. The gardens, first laid out in the reign of William III., were considerably enlarged in that of George II. At this period Queen Caroline appropriated about 300 acres of the old Hyde Park, separated them from the park by a fosse and sunken wall, and engaged Bridgeman, a noted landscape gardener of the day, to lay out the domain.

The Serpentine is crossed at the entrance to Kensington Gardens by a five-arched stone Bridge, the view from which on either side, with its combination of water and woodland, is exquisite. On the Kensington Gardens side of the bridge is a *Refreshment Pavilion*, much patronized in summer for afternoon tea; and on the other side is the *Powder Magazine*. The *Round Pond*, with an area of 7 acres, is beloved by juvenile yachtsmen. At the end of the *Broad Walk*, 50 ft. wide, between the Round Pond and Kensington Palace, is a white marble *Statue of Queen Victoria*, by Princess Louise, while, close at hand, on the Palace lawn, is a *Statue of William III.* At the intersection of the paths from Kensington Palace and the Albert Memorial is a huge equestrian statue by G. F. Watts, 12 ft. high, representing *Physical Energy*, a replica of the central portion of the Rhodes Memorial on the slope of Table Mountain, Cape Town. In the same pathway, farther north, is a granite obelisk in memory of *Speke*, the African explorer. Youthful visitors especially will seek out with eagerness the *Statue of Peter Pan*, by *Sir George Frampton, R.A.*, placed in the Gardens in 1912.

## 126 KENSINGTON PALACE—HOLLAND HOUSE

### Kensington Palace,

Plan III. E. 9.

Nearest Stations.—High Street, Kensington (District); Queen's Road (Central London).

Here Queen Victoria was born (May 24, 1819) and spent her childhood; and here on the morning of June 21, 1837, she received the news of her accession to the throne. Here, too, was born on the 26th May, 1867, the Princess May, now Queen of England. William III. purchased the mansion, then known as Nottingham House, from Lord Chancellor Finch; and Sir Christopher Wren was employed to extend and adapt it as a royal residence. King William, Queen Mary, Queen Anne, her husband (Prince George of Denmark), and George II. all died here. Under George I. an additional suite of state rooms was constructed by Wm. Kent. Several suites of rooms in the Palace are still occupied by relatives of the Royal Family.

In that mellow part of Kensington which lies between the Gardens and Holland Park are many delightful residences favoured by successful lawyers, literary men and artists. At No. 2, Palace Gardens (Plan III. D. 9), close to the west boundary of the gardens, Thackeray died in 1863. At No. 16 (formerly 13), Young Street, on the other side of High Street, *Vanity Fair*, *Pendennis*, and other works were written. At Holly Lodge, Campden Hill (Plan III. D. 9), a tablet records that Lord Macaulay died there in 1859.

Slightly farther west, in extensive grounds bordering the Kensington Road, is **Holland House** (Plan III. C. 9), built by Sir Walter Cope in 1607.

At the Commonwealth it passed to General Fairfax, and Cromwell and Ireton were often here. On his marriage to the Countess of Warwick (a daughter of Sir W. Cope) in 1716, Addison became the nominal master of the house. Here, in 1719, he died, and the house passed from the Warwick family to Henry Fox, the father of the famous statesman, Charles James Fox. For a long period it was the recognized rallying-place of the Whigs, and the most brilliant social and literary centre in London. It is the residence of Lord Ilchester. A *Statue of Charles James Fox* faces the road. Close at hand are facilities for practising golf under cover.

A turning just beyond the grounds of Holland House leads into Holland Park Road, where at No. 12 (north side) is **Leighton House** (Plan III. C. 10), the former residence of Lord Leighton, P.R.A. (d. 1896). (*Admission 11 to 3 or dusk, 1s. Saturdays free. Closed on Sundays.*)

The house contains several oil paintings by Lord Leighton, a large collection of his original drawings and sketches, and proof engravings and photographic reproductions of his principal pictures. The chief

feature is the beautiful Arab Hall. The tiles were collected by Lord Leighton and his friends during visits to the East, and most of them are three hundred years old while two are of the fourteenth century. The Damascene windows, with their gorgeous colouring, are very fine.

We can make our way back to Charing Cross either by train from Kensington High Street, or by 'bus along Kensington Gore and Knightsbridge. The latter route affords an opportunity for noting a few features of interest omitted on our outward ramble through the parks. **Kensington High Street**, it may be remarked, is a favourite shopping quarter, with many fine establishments. No. 144 (formerly 24, Lower Phillimore Place), marked by a tablet, was the residence of Sir David Wilkie (1785-1841), the painter. **St. Mary Abbot's Church**, with its lofty spire, was rebuilt by Sir G. Scott on the site of an older fan. In the roadway opposite is a local *Memorial of Queen Victoria*, subscribed for by the inhabitants of Kensington.

**Kensington Gore** takes its name from *Gore House*, almost as famous as *Holland House* in the early part of the last century as a literary and political centre. *Lowther Lodge* is the home of the **Royal Geographical Society**. The Museum on the ground floor contains mementoes of Captain Scott's Antarctic expedition and many other objects of geographical interest.

On the right is the **Royal Albert Hall** (Plan III. F. 9), built 1867-1871 as a memorial of the Prince Consort, at a cost of £200,000.

It is one of the largest halls in the world, and will comfortably seat 8,000 people, with another 1,100 in the orchestra. Though frequently used for political demonstrations and other great gatherings, it is principally famous for musical performances on a large scale. Not every singer or speaker emerges successfully from the ordeal of facing that vast audience. In the arena alone there is space for 1,000 persons, while the amphitheatre holds nearly 1,400. Above are three rows of boxes, many of them private property, and still higher are the balcony, and a picture gallery and promenade. The magnificent **Organ**, built by Willis, has nearly 9,000 pipes. Concerts and recitals are frequent, and the Hall has been the scene of many notable gatherings.

On the west side of the Hall is **Alexandra House**, founded by Queen Alexandra in 1886 as a hostel for women students. In the district immediately south of the Albert Hall are the London University and several important colleges, as well as the South Kensington Museums, see pp. 156-165.

Opposite the Albert Hall, just within Kensington Gardens, is the **Albert Memorial** (Plan III. F. 9), erected to the memory of the Prince Consort.

The memorial cost £120,000, and was designed by Sir Gilbert Scott, on the model of an Eleanor cross. Granite steps lead up to the pedestal, on the four sides of which are 178 marble reliefs of musicians, poets,



painters, architects and sculptors of all times. At the four angles are marble groups, representing Agriculture, Manufacture, Commerce and Architecture, while at the foot of the steps are allegorical figures representing Europe, Asia, Africa and America. The memorial statue in gilt bronze, about 13 ft. high, represents the Prince seated and wearing the dress of a Knight of the Garter. Among the public undertakings with which the Prince identified himself was the Great Exhibition of 1851, held in the neighbouring Hyde Park. Hence the statue holds a copy of the exhibition catalogue. Above is a Gothic canopy, supported by clustered granite columns, and crowned by a spire of rich tabernacle work, in gilt and enamelled metal, terminating in a cross, 175 ft. above the ground.

Passing **Knightsbridge Barracks** (Household Cavalry) we reach the soaring *Hyde Park Hotel*, opposite which the **Brompton Road** runs off in a south-westerly direction to Cromwell Road and the South Kensington Museums (p. 155); while **Sloane Street** (named after Sir Hans Sloane) leads due south to Chelsea. At the junction of the roads is an equestrian *Statue of Field-Marshal Lord Strathnairn*, by Onslow Ford. The fine mansion on the eastern side of **Albert Gate** is the **French Embassy**, built originally for George Hudson, the "railway king." No. 19, **Albert Gate**, was the residence of Charles Reade, the novelist.

No. 13, **Princes Gate**, farther westward, was for some time the home of the late Mr. J. Pierpont Morgan; on his death he presented the mansion to the United States' Government for the use of the Ambassador to the Court of St. James's.