

OXFORD STREET AND HOLBORN.

ROUTE VI.—OXFORD STREET—SOHO—TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD—BLOOMSBURY—THE BRITISH MUSEUM—HOLBORN.

WE will assume this time that the start is made from Oxford Circus, at the junction of Oxford Street with Regent Street.

Oxford Street.

Plan II. H. and I. 7.

Stations, commencing at west end, Marble Arch, Bond Street, Oxford Circus, Tottenham Court Road and British Museum. All these are on the Central London Tube. At Oxford Circus connection is made with the Bakerloo Tube, at Tottenham Court Road with the Hampstead Tube, and the British Museum station is quite close to the Holborn station of the Piccadilly Tube.

This has always been the principal traffic artery between the west and north-west of London and the City. Beneath it runs the Central London Railway. Although Oxford Street proper, from the Marble Arch to Tottenham Court Road, has only a length of a mile, it forms part of a great highway extending from the Bank to Shepherd's Bush, and thence *viâ* Acton and Ealing to Uxbridge. At and near Oxford Circus are some of the best-known shops in London, including *Marshall and Snelgrove's*, *Peter Robinson's*, *Jay's*, *Selfridge's*, *Liberty's*, *D. H. Evans's*, *Waring's* and many others. Some idea of the value of sites in this favourite shopping quarter may be gathered from the statement that £30 a square foot is a not unusual price.

Wardour Street, noted for its old furniture and curiosity shops, would bring us into the heart of the **Soho** quarter, almost entirely occupied by foreigners of various nationalities, and famous for its restaurants. At the north-west angle of **Soho Square** is the **French Protestant Church**, while on the east side is the **Roman Catholic Church of St. Patrick**. In 1922 the colours of the disbanded Connaught Rangers Regiment were placed in this church. The Duke of Monmouth's house—it will be recalled that "Soho" was his battle-cry at Sedgemoor—stood on the site of the present Hospital for Women.

At No. 51, **Frith Street**, south of the Square, Mozart lived as a boy. Hazlitt died at No. 6, in 1830. In **Dean Street**, to the west, are the **Royalty Theatre** and **St. Anne's Church**, the latter notable as the burial-place of William Hazlitt (d. 1830), and of the unfortunate Theodore, King of Corsica, who died at Soho in 1756, as a tablet on the west wall of the tower records—

"Immediately after leaving the King's Bench Prison by the benefit of the Act of Insolvency, in consequence of which he registered his kingdom of Corsica for the use of his creditors."

"The Grave, great Teacher, to a level brings
 Heroes and Beggars, Galley slaves and Kings;
 But Theodore this Moral learn'd ere dead.
 Fate pour'd its lessons on his living Head:
 Restow'd a Kingdom, and denied him Bread."

In **Gerrard Street**, just off Shaftesbury Avenue, Edmund Burke lived. The house, No. 37 (tablet), is now a restaurant. Dryden died at No. 43, in 1700.

Close to the junction of Oxford Street with Tottenham Court Road are the *Frascati Restaurant* and the **New Oxford Theatre**.

Tottenham Court Road (Plan II. I. and K. 6 and 7) runs northward for rather more than half a mile to the Euston Road, and is thence continued as the Hampstead Road, leading, viâ Camden Town, to Hampstead Heath. At the corner of Great Russell Street is the imposing building of the **Central Young Men's Christian Association**, erected in 1910-11 at a cost, including furnishing, of £160,000. It includes two large halls for meetings, restaurants, a splendidly equipped gymnasium, swimming baths, social rooms, a boys' department, and bedrooms with 240 beds for young men. Many classes are held for business training, and in various ways the Association renders excellent service to the young men of London. The Association's magnificent work during the War in providing and maintaining recreation huts and canteens for the troops at home and abroad rendered it world-famous. About half-way down Tottenham Court Road is the **Whitefield Tabernacle**, an important "institutional" church of the Congregational body. Farther down are the establishments of *Messrs. Shoolbred and Maple and Co.*

Any street to the right will lead into **Gower Street**, where is the **Royal Academy of Dramatic Art**. At No. 110 (marked by a table) Charles Darwin lived when first married (1839-42). At the junction of Gower Street with the Euston Road is **Euston Square Station** (Plan II. I. 6), on the Underground Railway. Close at hand, in the Euston Road, are the headquarters of the **National Union of Railwaymen**. The entrance to **Euston Station** (Plan II. I. 5), the terminus of the London and North-Western (now part of the London, Midland and Scottish Railway), is a short distance eastward. Before the entrance is a dignified memorial, unveiled by Earl Haig, to men of the L.N.W.R. who fell in the War. Between Euston and King's Cross are the offices of the **Hearts of Oak Benefit Society**, in front of which stands a bronze *Statue of King Edward VII.*

University College, near the north end of Gower Street, is affiliated to London University, and has accommodation for upwards of twelve hundred students. Attached to it are important **Chemical Laboratories**, second to none in Europe.

In 1920 the Senate of **London University** accepted the Government's offer of a site on which to erect headquarters. The area, of about 11 acres, lies between the British Museum and Gordon Square and Woburn Square. Building is to begin as soon as funds allow.

University College School, boasting as alumni Viscount Morley, Viscount Selby, the Lord Chief Justice, Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, Lord Lindley, the late Lord Burnham, and many others who have risen to distinction, was removed a few years ago to Froggnal, Hampstead. The site is now occupied by the **Institute of Physiology**, opened in 1909 in connection with the University of London.

Across the road is **University College Hospital**, rebuilt in the form of a diagonal cross, at the cost of the late Sir J. Blundell Maple. Close at hand, in **Gordon Square** (Plan II. K. 6), is the **Catholic Apostolic Church**, of cathedral-like proportions, commenced by the Irvingite body in 1850, but still unfinished. Adjoining is **Dr. Williams's Library**, containing about 40,000 volumes, chiefly theological and historical, which may be borrowed freely by ticket-holders. On the east side of Woburn Square is **Christ Church**, with a reredos in memory of Christina Rossetti, the poetess (d. 1894).

We are now in the well-known quarter of—

Bloomsbury,

more favoured by visitors than any other part of London. Nearly every house displays the enticing notice "boarding," or "apartments," and there are a large number of private hotels. The popularity of the district is accounted for partly by the fact that it is within easy reach of the City and West End and of the great railway termini; and partly by the attractiveness of the **Squares**, which are here more numerous than in any other part of the Metropolis. The largest is **Russell Square**, on the eastern side of which is the imposing *Hotel Russell*.

Russell Square has figured in several well-known novels, notably *Vanity Fair*. No. 5 was the residence of Frederick Denison Maurice. Several houses of historical interest were demolished for the extension of the *Imperial Hotel*. Nos. 12 and 13, on the north side of the Square (the latter long the residence of Sir George Williams), have been, since the demolition of Exeter Hall, the national headquarters of the Young Men's Christian Association movement (see also p. 143).

In Tavistock Place, north of Russell Square, is the **Passmore Edwards Hall**, with class-rooms, gymnasium, etc.

Southampton Row (Plan II. K. 7), leading from Holborn via Russell Square and Woburn Place to Euston Road, was widened a few years ago, and is now one of the most important arteries of traffic between North and South London. Here are the *Bedford*, the *Imperial* (with Turkish Baths), and a number of other hotels, much resorted to by provincial visitors. The **Society of Women Journalists** is installed at Sentinel House. The southern end of Southampton Row forms part of **Kingsway** (see p. 174). Here are the **London Day Training College for Teachers**, and the **Central School of Arts and Crafts**, both under the London County Council. Adjoining is the **Baptist Church House**, with a statue of John Bunyan at the corner. Between Southampton Row and Bedford Row is **Red Lion Square**, where the bodies of Cromwell, Ireton, and Bradshaw are said, on doubtful authority, to have been exposed after their exhumation from Westminster Abbey. In the Square are the London Headquarters of "Toc H."

Great Russell Street, connecting Southampton Row with Tottenham Court Road, leads past **Bloomsbury Square**, in which is the **College of Preceptors**. No. 6, Bloomsbury Square (tablet) was the residence of Isaac D'Israeli; and No. 31, that of Sir Anthony Panizzi, the famous chief librarian of the British Museum.

The British Museum.

Plan II. K. 7.

Admission.—The Exhibition Galleries are open free on week-days during summer from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. In January, February, November and December after 4 p.m., and in March and October after 5 p.m., some only of the galleries remain open, viz., on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, the MSS. and Printed Books, Prehistoric, Coins and Medals, British, Anglo-Saxon; Oriental, Religious and Ethnographical Collections, Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Egyptian Rooms, Assyrian and Babylonian Rooms, Glass, China and Mediaeval Collections; and on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays the Egyptian, Assyrian, Greek and Roman Galleries, Gold Ornament Room, the Prehistoric, Terra Cotta, Greek and Roman Life, Bronze, Vase and Mummy Rooms, and Print Exhibition Gallery.

The Museum is closed on Christmas Day and Good Friday. On Sunday afternoons the Museum is open from 2 till 4, 5 or 6 according to time of year.

The Reading Room (see p. 148) is only available to ticket-holders, but visitors may obtain permission to go as far as the doorway and see the room, on application to the officials in the Entrance Hall. It is open daily from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. except on the first four week-days of March and September.

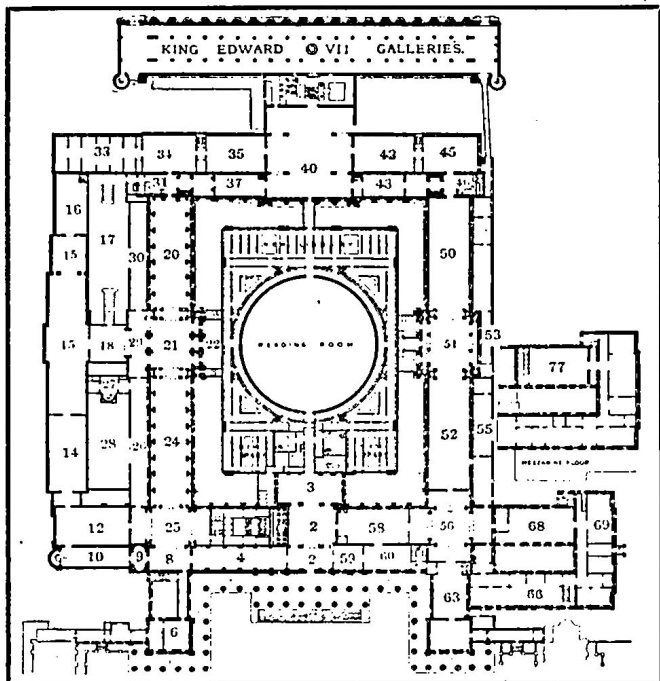
Catalogues, Handbooks and Pictorial Postcards are on sale in the Entrance Hall and at the top of the staircase in King Edward VII. galleries. The general Guide, with plans, is quite sufficient for the ordinary visitor. Handbooks to Sculptures, Coins, Antiquities and other departments, can be bought. Some of these are excellent, and double the interest of a visit.

Official Guides.—Official Guides conduct parties round the Galleries every week-day at 12 noon and 3 p.m., starting from the Entrance Hall. Particulars of the sections covered in each day's lectures can be gleaned from the notice boards. Private parties are conducted if application has been made four days in advance.

Nearest Stations.—British Museum (Central London Tube), Holborn (Piccadilly Tube), Euston Square (Metropolitan), Euston (London and North-Western).

Omnibuses.—All omnibuses running along New Oxford Street or Tottenham Court Road pass within a few yards of the Museum. Alight at Museum Street or Great Russell Street. Several services actually pass the entrance.

The Museum originated in 1753 with the purchase of the library and collection of Sir Hans Sloane, a public lottery having been set on foot for the purpose of raising the necessary funds. Added to by the Cottonian, Harleian and other collections of manuscripts, the Museum was opened to the public in 1759. Many libraries and collections of natural objects, coins and antiquities were added—especially the magnificent library

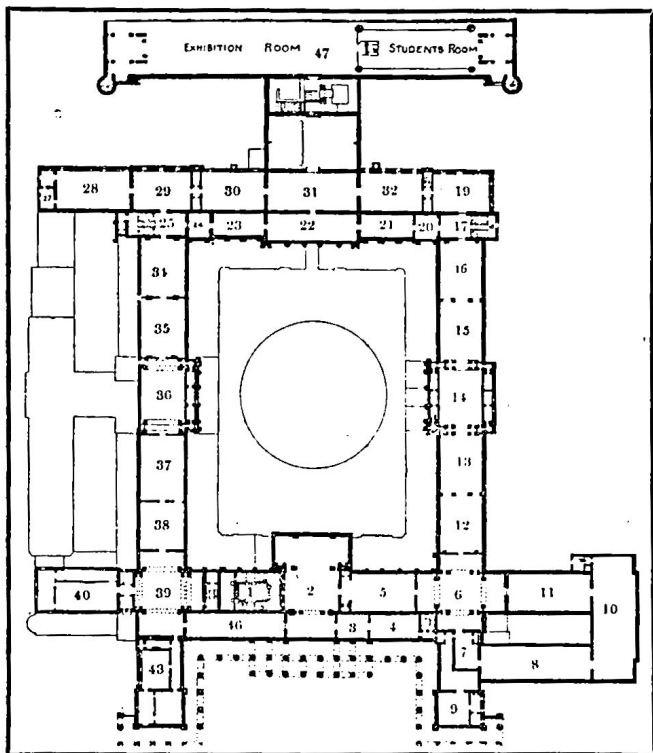


BRITISH MUSEUM: GROUND FLOOR.

acquired by George III., and the renowned Elgin Marbles—and the Museum became one of the most extensive and valuable in Europe. A new building being imperatively required, the erection was entrusted to the brothers Smirke, with the result that, between the years 1823 and 1847, Montague House disappeared, and the present structure took its place. The great Reading Room was built in 1857, the "White Wing," on the east, in 1884. A further extension, the "King Edward the Seventh Galleries," has been made at the rear, in Montague

Place, at a cost of £200,000. The records show that about three-quarters of a million visits are made to the Museum per annum.

It would require months to become acquainted with all the contents of this vast national storehouse, and we can do little more than give such clues as will enable the hurried visitor to make the best of the single morning or afternoon he is likely to



BRITISH MUSEUM: FIRST FLOOR.

be able to devote to the purpose. The excellent *General Guide* will be found of great assistance, and the various *Guides to Departments*, sold in the Entrance Hall, are veritable mines of information. Special students' rooms are attached to most of the departments, and the officials are always willing to give all the assistance in their power to genuine inquirers. Most of the

objects are plainly labelled, and in many cases explanatory notes are added.

Entering from Great Russell Street, we cross the courtyard, with greensward on either side, and ascend the steps beneath the Ionic portico. The figures on the pediment are by *Westmacott*, and represent the progress of the human race and the development of Art, Science, etc. The entire front is 370 ft. in length, and has an Ionic colonnade of 44 columns.

In the spacious **Entrance Hall** is a statue of Shakespeare by *Roubillac*, formerly in Garrick's Villa on the Thames at Hampton and bequeathed to the Museum by the great actor. The hall beyond, known as the **Room of Inscriptions**, contains Roman and Greek inscribed stones, statues, busts, etc.

Lynx-eyed officials guard a doorway inscribed "Readers only." This leads to the famous **Reading Room**, a huge circular hall, accommodating between 450 and 500 readers, who sit at desks radiating like the spokes of a wheel from two concentric circles, in the inner of which sit the officials, while the printed *Catalogue*, comprising about 1,000 volumes, is ranged round the outer circle. The dome, decorated in white and gold, is 106 ft. high, and has a diameter of 140 ft., only 2 ft. less than the dome of St. Peter's, Rome. The window panels bear twenty of the most illustrious names in English literature. About 20,000 of the volumes most in request, such as dictionaries, encyclopædias, etc., are ranged in shelves round the Reading Room itself and may be consulted without filling up a form. For other works it is necessary to look under the names of authors in the *Catalogue*. When the name of an author is not known, the excellent *Subject Index*, compiled by Mr. G. K. Fortescue, will frequently give the needful clues for books acquired subsequently to 1880. A copy of every book published in the United Kingdom has to be sent here. There are already nearly four million volumes, occupying 50 miles of shelving, and the number is increasing at the rate of 50,000 per annum. "Readers" average nearly 400 daily. Thackeray's opinion has probably been echoed by many a literary worker:—

"It seems to me one cannot sit down in that place without a heart full of grateful reverence. I own to have said my grace at the table, and to have thanked heaven for this my English birthright, freely to partake of these bountiful books, and to speak the truth I find there."

Persons desirous of becoming "Readers" must apply to the Director, specifying the purpose for which they wish to use the Room, and enclosing a recommendation from a householder. Tickets are renewable every six months, and are not granted to persons under 21 years of age. The hours are from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Turning left by the entrance doors we enter—

The Sculpture Galleries. The first is the **Roman Gallery**, with a number of inscribed stones found in England, and portrait



DR. JOHNSON AWAITING AUDIENCE AT LORD CHESTERFIELD S.
(From the painting by E. M. Ward in the Tate Gallery.)



Photos by [Levy, Sons & Co.]
STAPLE INN, HOLBORN—THE BRITISH MUSEUM—BROAD WALK,
REGENT'S PARK.

busts of Julius Cæsar, Nero, and other worthies and unworthies familiar to us by name from childhood. In the three **Græco-Roman Rooms** beyond, and in the **Gallery of Casts**, are some of the most beautiful sculptures in the world. The **Archæal Room** contains early Greek sculpture, principally from the colonies in Asia Minor. The **Ephesus Room** is chiefly occupied by fragments of the great Temple of Diana at Ephesus (see Acts xix.), which ranked as one of the wonders of the world. We next enter the **Elgin Room**, containing the famous Elgin Marbles which formerly adorned the Parthenon at Athens, and were brought to this country in 1801-3 by Lord Elgin. Many of the figures were executed by Pheidias, the greatest sculptor the world has ever known, and even in their mutilated condition excite the wonder and admiration of all who see them. At the north end of the Elgin Room is the **Phigaleian Room**, with marbles from the Temple of Apollo Epicurius, near the ancient Phigaleia in Arcadia. Here also are a number of Greek stelæ, or tombstones. Steps lead down into the **Mausoleum Room**, where are arranged the remains of the magnificent mausoleum at Halicarnassus, erected to the memory of Mausolos, Prince of Caria, about 354 B.C. by his widow, Artemisia. This was accounted one of the seven wonders of the world, and gave rise to our modern term mausoleum, applied to all such monuments. Ascend the steps at farther end to the **Nereid Room**, where are exhibited the sculptures of the Nereid monument, from Xanthos in Lycia, probably erected about 370 B.C. The monument takes its name from the Nereids, or sea-nymphs, with which it was adorned. From the **Assyrian Saloon**, containing slabs and figures discovered by Layard, we pass to the **Egyptian Galleries**, in which is an immense and most interesting collection of Egyptian statues, sarcophagi and inscriptions, including the famous Rosetta Stone, a slab of black basalt with three inscriptions, which gave the key to the decipherment of the Egyptian hieroglyphics. By their side are the **Nineveh Gallery** and other rooms in which are stored the deeply interesting collection of Assyrian relics, inscriptions and brick-books discovered by George Smith, including the primitive records of the Creation and the Flood in cuneiform characters.

Stairs lead from the end of the Northern Egyptian Gallery to the—

Upper Floor.

Here the Egyptian Galleries are continued, or perhaps we should say commenced, as these upper rooms are known as the **First to Sixth Egyptian Rooms**. Interest is chiefly excited here by the mummies, both of men and animals, of which there is a very large collection, dating from about 3600 B.C. to 500 A.D. One of the most interesting and gruesome is a vitrified corpse, in crouching posture, of a man of the Neolithic period (probably

about 7000 B.C.). From the Fourth Room a door leads to the Edward VII. Galleries (see below). We, however, pass on to the Sixth Egyptian Room and, turning right on leaving, pass by the North Gallery (Assyrian, Babylonian, Carthaginian and Phœnician antiquities) to the north-west staircase, by which we reached the Upper Floor.

The Western Gallery contains the **Vase Rooms** (I. to IV.), with their magnificent collections of Greek pottery from the seventh to the third centuries B.C. In the **Bronze Room** are numerous Greek and Roman statuettes and implements. Beyond is an interesting room devoted to articles of **Greek and Roman Life**. (Here is the entrance to the *Students' Coin Room*.) To the south (straight ahead) is the **Room of Gold Ornaments and Gems**, including specimens of ancient jewellery, cameos, etc.—probably the finest collection in the world.

On Table-Case T is the famous **Portland Vase**, the property of the Duke of Portland. It is of dark blue glass, with beautiful reliefs of opaque white glass. It was found in a tomb at Rome about two centuries ago. In 1845 it was broken to atoms by a lunatic named Lloyd, but has been skilfully reconstructed.

Returning to the Greek and Roman Life Room, we turn to the right and enter the room containing the **Terra-cotta Antiquities**, with statuettes, etc.

At the top of the **Principal Staircase**, on the walls of which are Buddhist sculptures, is the **Central Saloon**, containing Pre-historic collections illustrating the Stone and Bronze Ages. A doorway on the east side leads into the **Plaque Room**, from which we pass into the **Coin and Medal Room**, the exhibits dating from the earliest known specimens to those of the present time.

Returning to the Central Saloon, we turn right and enter, on the right, the **Roman Britain Room**, and thence pass into the **Asiatic Saloon**, with specimens of Japanese and Chinese porcelain and metal work. The collection in the room straight ahead has to do with **Indian Religions**; the room beyond is known as the **Buddhist Room**, and at the end is a small collection illustrating **Early Christianity**. From this we pass into the **Iron Age Gallery**, and so to the *Maudslay Collection* of sculptures from Maya (Central America).

Hence, crossing the Asiatic Saloon, we pass through the extensive **Ethnographical Collections**, including a selection of native weapons and ornaments presented by the Maoris to the King and Queen during their visit to New Zealand in 1901. Then we reach the north-east staircase and the Sixth Egyptian Room. Passing again to the Fourth Egyptian Room we go to the right and ascend the marble stairway connecting the two **King Edward VII. Galleries**. The memorial stone of this extension was laid by King Edward on June 27, 1907, and King George formally opened the building in May, 1914. The extension, designed by Mr. John J. Burnet, is in keeping with the older portions, and in order to form a worthy approach to

it a wide new thoroughfare was constructed northward from Montague Place. The upper floor is devoted to the Museum's fine collection of **Prints and Drawings**. On the right is the students' room, while prints are exhibited for all to see in the western part of the gallery.

Descend to the lower gallery and turn left. Here are **Pottery, Glass and Mediaeval Antiquities**, including the *Waddesdon Bequest*. Pass down to the eastern end of the gallery, whence a passage leads to the **King's Library**, so named from the collection of over 60,000 volumes, acquired by George III. and "presented"—for a valuable consideration—by George IV. in 1823. Here are exhibited many famous English books, such as first editions of *Paradise Lost* and *Pilgrim's Progress*, and Shakespeare First Folios. In cases in the middle of the room is the *Tabling Collection of Postage Stamps*.

We next pass into the **Manuscript Saloon**, where are exhibited letters and autographs of famous authors and historical personages, the log-book of the *Victory*, Nelson's Trafalgar memorandum and other MSS. of great interest. In the attached Students' Room is shown on application an original copy of Magna Charta. Another doorway gives access to the book-lined corridor leading to the **Newspaper Room**, available only to "readers." Turning to the right, we pass into the **Grenville Library**, with glass cases containing illuminated MSS. of great beauty.

In Bedford Square is the recently-enlarged home of the **Architectural Association**, including a School of Architecture with accommodation for 200 students.

At the corner of Museum Street, leading from the British Museum to New Oxford Street, is *Mudie's Circulating Library* (p. 17). A notable feature of the oblique Hart Street is **St. George's Church**, designed by Hawksmoor, with an extraordinary steeple, surmounted by a figure of George I. in Roman toga. This incongruity gave rise to the following rhyme:—

"When Harry the Eighth left the Pope in the lurch,
He ruled over England as head of the Church;
But George's good subjects, the Bloomsbury people,
Instead of the Church, made him head of the steeple."

Nearly opposite, at the corner of Broad Street and High Holborn, is the **Holborn Town Hall**, erected in 1908, with a public library adjoining.

Hart Street would bring us back to the northern end of **Kingsway** (p. 174), from which electric trams, on emerging from the subway, run along an important line of thoroughfare, which starts at **Theobald's Road**, and is continued as Clerkenwell Road and Old Street to Shoreditch. Lord Beaconsfield was born at

No. 22, Theobald's Road (tablet), in 1804. At the junction of Theobald's Road with the Gray's Inn Road is Holborn Hall, acquired in 1908 by the Primitive Methodist body as their London headquarters, and also used for other purposes.

Rosebery Avenue runs thence in a north-easterly direction to the *Angel* at Islington. Lamb's Conduit Street (the name recalls the conduit by which a Mr. Lamb in the sixteenth century carried water to Snow Hill) leads to Guilford Street, in which is—

The Foundling Hospital.

Plan II. L. 6.

Admission.—Visitors are shown round on Mondays from 11 to 4, also after the Sunday morning service (donation expected). Sunday services at 11 and 3.30.

Nearest Stations.—Russell Square (Piccadilly Tube), Chancery Lane (Central London Tube), King's Cross or Euston Square (Metropolitan).

This interesting institution was founded in 1739 by Thomas Coram, a retired sea captain, for "exposed and deserted children." The original establishment was in Hatton Garden, but "fresh air being as necessary for children as for plants," the governors decided to erect a new hospital "in the balmy meads of Lamb's Conduit Fields, then far away out in the green pastures." Within a very few years it was found necessary to abandon the haphazard mode of admission at first in force, and since 1760 only illegitimate children whose mothers are known have been received. There are between 600 and 700 inmates, boys and girls; it would be a kindness to dress them in less distinctive garb. The service on Sunday morning is largely attended on account of the fine singing. In the board-room and the secretary's room are pictures by *Hogarth*, *Reynolds*, *Gainsborough*, and others, presented by the artists. The organ in the chapel was a gift from Handel, and the institution is fortunate enough to possess the full score of *The Messiah*, bequeathed by the composer. The Hospital will probably ere long be once again removed to the country.

The streets hereabouts have many interesting literary and artistic associations. At No. 32, Brunswick Square, immediately west of the Foundling Hospital, lived John Leech, the caricaturist. At 13, Great Coram Street, Thackeray lived before going to Kensington. Tavistock House, at the north-east corner of Tavistock Square, was the home from 1850 to 1860 of Charles Dickens. Here *Bleak House* and *Little Dorrit* were written.

In Great Ormond Street are the Royal Children's Hospital and the Homœopathic Hospital.

Returning to Theobald's Road, we cross it to Bedford Row

a short but wide road, tenanted almost entirely by solicitors. At the top we turn left and enter the precincts of—

Gray's Inn (Plan II. L. 7), one of the four great Inns of Court, originally founded for the education and lodging of law students, to one or other of which all barristers are "admitted." Gray's Inn occupies an extensive area, from Holborn to Theobald's Road. Most of the offices line the western side of Gray's Inn Road and overlook the pleasant gardens, with their fine plane trees and well-kept lawns, laid out by Francis Bacon, who was admitted a member of the Inn in 1576, at the age of fifteen, and held the high office of Treasurer for nine years. The contorted catalpa tree near the centre is said to have been planted by him. A statue of the Inn's greatest son, by *Mr. F. W. Pomeroy, A.R.A.*, in South Square, marks the tercentenary of his election as Treasurer (1608). It was unveiled by Earl Balfour on June 27, 1912. In the Elizabethan Hall (there is a contemporary portrait of the Virgin Queen over the Benchers' desks) Shakespeare's *Comedy of Errors* is believed to have been acted in 1594. The Archbishop's Window in the Chapel has figures of Becket, Whitgift, Juxon, Laud and Wake, the last four all members of the "Ancient and Honourable Society." Another window, a memorial of the late Mr. H. C. Richards, M.P., Treasurer to the Inn, has the figure of Bishop Lancelot Andrewes.

Gray's Inn Road is a dingy and unattractive thoroughfare running northward from Holborn to King's Cross. On the right, about half a mile up, is the **Royal Free Hospital**, founded in 1828. Slightly to the east, bordering the northern part of Farringdon Road, and occupying the site of the old Coldbath House of Correction on the sarcastically named **Mount Pleasant**, are huge postal buildings where provincial letters and newspapers are sorted and despatched.

Close to the junction of Gray's Inn Road with Holborn, stone pillars mark the **City Boundary**, though it will be more convenient to regard Holborn Circus, a few yards eastward, as the limit of our present ramble. In the centre of the roadway stands a striking bronze statue, by *Albert Toft*, forming the **War Memorial of the London Fusillers**.

Holborn,

(Plan II. L. and M. 7)

the eastward continuation of New Oxford Street, takes its name from the *Old Bourne*, or burn, a tributary of the Fleet River, which formerly flowed through the hollow now spanned by the Viaduct. Here are many fine shops and stores, including

Gamage's and *Wallis's*. On the north side, close to Gray's Inn Road, is the large red-brick block occupied by the *Prudential Assurance Company*, extended a few years ago by the demolition of Furnival's Inn, where Dickens was living when he began the *Pickwick Papers*.

Chatterton, the boy poet, committed suicide in a garret in **Brooke Street**, immediately west of the Prudential Offices. At the north end of this street is **St. Alban's Church** (*open daily*), superbly decorated and noted for its ritualistic services.

Opposite Gray's Inn Road are some of the **Oldest Houses in London**, dating from the Elizabethan period, their projecting timbered fronts forming the street side of **Staple Inn**. An archway beneath gives access to the quaint little Inn, with its old-world courtyard. Though long an inn connected with the law, it owes its name to an earlier use, when it served as a kind of custom house where wool was weighed and the dues upon it collected. No. 10 is of special interest, for here lived "Mr. Grewgious" of *Edwin Drood*.

"Staple Inn," wrote Dickens, "is one of those nooks the turning into which from the dashing street imparts to the relieved pedestrian the sensation of having put cotton wool in his ears, and velvet soles on his boots." In 1922 a well was accidentally discovered near the centre of the courtyard. The old Hall, at the south-west corner of the courtyard, is occupied by the *Society of Actuaries*.

The visitor who proceeds through the courtyard and under the second archway will be rewarded by one of the most unexpected sights in London—a charming **Old-World Garden**, with flagged pathways, a trickling fountain, a pond with gold fish, and neat little rows of dwarf cypresses, backed by a mellow mid-eighteenth-century hall and timepiece. The setting is rather spoiled by the garish Birkbeck building to the left, but the terraced walk in front of the **Patent Office** (p. 182) is quite in keeping.

Farther east, close to Fetter Lane, stood **Barnard's Inn**, demolished a few years ago. The site is occupied by the **Mercers' School**, the old hall of the inn being utilized as a dining-room. The school has a history extending over four centuries and a half. Dean Colet, of St. Paul's, and Sir Thomas Gresham, founder of the Royal Exchange, were scholars.

From **Holborn Circus** (Plan II. M. 7) an omnibus, or the Central London Tube (Chancery Lane Station.), will take us back, in a few minutes, to our starting-point at Oxford Circus.