

SEEING LONDON.

Hints for the Hurried Visitor.

“fold on fold.
Grey to pearl, and pearl to gold,
Our London, like a land of old,
The land of Eldorado.”

THE metropolis is so vast, its interests are so many and so intricate, that it may be doubted whether any man can truthfully say that he “knows London.” Least of all will the life-long resident make that assertion, for if he be of an observant and reflective turn of mind every journey in an unaccustomed quarter will but add to his consciousness of abysmal ignorance. In a single suburb—even the most commonplace to outward seeming—there is matter for a library; while as to the central portion, with its crowded interests and constant changes, this closely-packed handbook, with its rigorous selections and equally rigorous exclusions, is about as good an illustration as could be offered of the impossibility of emptying the Atlantic with a limpet-shell.

Such being the frame of mind inevitably forced upon those who spend their working lives in and about London, it may well be asked despairingly: How can the casual visitor—the man or woman with one day, two days, three days, a week, or even a fortnight at disposal—hope in so short a time to gain an intelligent acquaintance with the sights and features of this so extensive metropolis, beyond all question the most bewildering that the world has ever known?

The answer is that the miracle is possible of accomplishment, is, in fact, accomplished every year by crowds of delighted strangers, who see more of the “Great Wen” in a few days, or even hours, than very many Londoners see in a lifetime. This is due partly to the apathy of Londoners, the majority of whom, it must be confessed, make but the feeblest response to the reflection that they are “citizens of no mean city”; partly to the fact that visitors from a distance have usually conned such books as this before arrival, and have formed definite ideas as to the things they wish to see and the things

they are content to leave unseen. Of these considerations we should be disposed to attach the greater importance to the second. "System" and "selection"—especially, alas, "selection" with its inevitable corollary, "exclusion"—must be the watchwords of the hurried visitor.

The following notes are a response to requests frequently urged by readers in all parts of the country and abroad that we should give some help in this immensely difficult process of selection. We gladly do our best, though we cannot profess to cater for all tastes, and the relative importance and interest of the various sights must always be a matter of individual preference. The "hustler" who has demonstrated to admiring friends that London can be "done" in a day will smile at the leisurely nature of our daily programmes; others will find them far too full. We endeavour to indicate a middle course, allowing time for something more than a mental snapshot of each place, but little for lingering. And an overwhelming consciousness of the "much that lies beyond" prompts us to exhort even the most indefatigable sightseer not for one moment to imagine that "seeing London" and "knowing London" are phrases identical in meaning.

It is premised that the visitor will read these itineraries in conjunction with the notes as to days and hours of admission given in small type under the headings of our descriptions of the various places of interest. Some little care is necessary in this matter, for if economy of time be the governing consideration it is mortifying in the extreme to find on arrival that doors are closed, or will open only on the production of a previously procured order. It should be said, too, if economy of time be more important than economy of money, that *free days* are best avoided, especially in the height of the season. Apart from fare, sight-seeing in London is cheaper than anywhere, and an occasional sixpence or shilling is generally well spent in avoiding a crowd.

Again, if expense be not so paramount a consideration as time, it will be advisable to cover intermediate distances by the lively "taxi" (for fares *see* p. 4). In the central parts it is rarely worth while to retain the vehicle, as it can be discharged on entering a building, if a lengthy stay is likely, with a reasonable certainty of being able to secure another on leaving. But if a number of places are visited in succession, with only a short stay in each, it will often be found more convenient to direct the driver to wait. For distances of any length the Underground Railways are generally preferable, but

given fine weather the motor omnibuses afford a pleasurable mode of progression and give opportunities for noting objects of interest and the life of the streets that the railway passenger misses.

In making any necessary modifications or adaptations of the following itineraries, one of the principal objects should be to avoid going over the same ground twice.

London in One Day.

Assuming that the reader is a "bird of passage," merely breaking his journey from or to the Continent or the provinces, how shall he employ the time at his disposal to the best advantage?

We will assume that he has breakfasted and enjoyed a matutinal "wash and brush-up," either on the train or at the terminus, and has made his way to **Charing Cross** (Plan III. K. 8), which for sight-seeing purposes may be regarded as the "hub" of London. The following are a few alternative modes of spending what must perforce be a very hurried day, the proportion of time given to each place depending, of course, upon whether the pilgrim's "bent" is in the direction of art, architecture, historical association, or "shops" and the life of the streets.

Morning.

National Gallery.
 National Portrait Gallery.
 Whitehall (passing Government
 Offices, Royal United Services
 Museum and the Cenotaph).
 Houses of Parliament.
 Westminster Abbey.
 Roman Catholic Cathedral, off
 Victoria Street.
 Buckingham Palace (exterior).
 St. James's Park.
 London Museum, Lancaster House.
 St. James's Palace (exterior).
Luncheon in neighbourhood of
 Piccadilly or Leicester Square.

Afternoon.

Piccadilly.
 Royal Academy.
 Drive through Hyde Park and
 Kensington Gardens.
 Wallace Collection, Manchester
 Square.
 Oxford Street.
 British Museum.
 Kingsway.
 Law Courts.
 Fleet Street.
 Ludgate Hill.
 St. Paul's Cathedral.

If it is intended to stay in London overnight, and there be any hours of daylight left, they can be well employed in sauntering along the Embankment, with its pleasant riverside gardens, to the starting-point at Charing Cross. Dinner, and perhaps a visit to a theatre, will bring the traveller to the end of the day, and probably of his powers of endurance.

The route outlined has the disadvantage of almost excluding the City. An alternative might be :—

<i>Morning.</i>	<i>Afternoon.</i>
Bank of England.	Fleet Street.
Royal Exchange (frescoes).	Law Courts.
Monument.	Temple Gardens.
Tower of London.	Embankment.
Guildhall, Museum & Art Gallery.	London County Hall,
Cheapside.	Houses of Parliament.
St. Paul's Cathedral.	Westminster Abbey (closes at 6
<i>Luncheon</i> at any of the neigh-	in summer).
bouring restaurants.	National Gallery (closes at 6 in
	summer).

Any remaining hours of daylight could be employed in a stroll in St. James's Park, with a glance at the many Government Offices, and at Buckingham Palace and St. James's Palace.

The one-day visitor bent merely on gaining a general impression of London, and leaving closer inspection for a more leisurely visit, might well occupy the day in one of the motor coach drives organized in summer by the General Omnibus Company and other concerns.

London in Two Days.

The two-day visitor has a bewildering choice of possibilities. He might take the two one-day programmes already sketched, the fact that they overlap to some extent allowing him more ample time for each. Or should he desire to extend the range of sight-seeing, he might proceed somewhat as follows :—

<i>First Day.</i>	<i>Second Day.</i>
Charing Cross.	Bank.
National Gallery.	Royal Exchange.
National Portrait Gallery.	Monument.
Houses of Parliament.	Tower of London.
Westminster Abbey.	Guildhall.
(<i>Luncheon.</i>)	Cheapside.
Tate Gallery, near Vauxhall	St. Paul's Cathedral.
Bridge.	(<i>Luncheon.</i>)
Roman Catholic Cathedral.	Newgate Street.
St. James's Park.	Holborn.
London Museum.	British Museum.
Green Park.	Oxford Street.
Hyde Park and Kensington	Wallace Collection.
Gardens.	Regent's Park.
Victoria and Albert Museum.	Zoological Gardens (open till
Natural History Museum.	sunset in summer).

London in Three or Four Days.

All the really "first magnitude" sights in London proper have been included in the foregoing lists. It will depend upon

the visitor's taste, and also, perhaps, upon the weather, if sights of second magnitude shall be included, or the time at disposal be devoted to a trip out of London, say to Windsor Castle or Hampton Court.

Of these "second magnitude" sights all the following are in the central part of London, and can be quite easily sandwiched into the programmes already given. The three-day visitor will have to exclude some of them, unless he be content with a very cursory glance:—

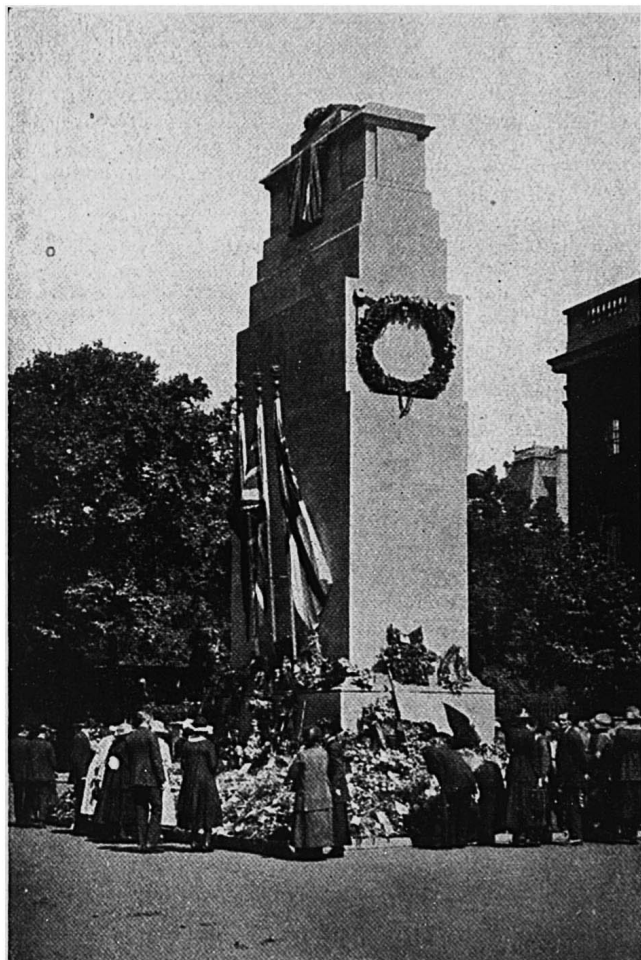
<p>Chelsea Hospital, Carlyle's House, etc., at Chelsea (can be combined with South Kensington Museums).</p> <p>Mint (order necessary). Can be combined with Tower.</p> <p>Museum of Practical Geology, Piccadilly.</p> <p>Oratory, Brompton Road.</p> <p>St. Bartholomew's Church, Smithfield (oldest in London, except Tower Chapel).</p> <p>Charterhouse.</p>	<p>St. Margaret's, Westminster (see with Westminster Abbey).</p> <p>London County Hall, east end of Westminster Bridge.</p> <p>Record Office, Chancery Lane (historical deeds).</p> <p>Soane Museum and Royal College of Surgeons (order necessary for latter), Lincoln's Inn Fields.</p> <p>Temple Church and Gardens.</p> <p>Royal United Services Museum, Whitehall.</p> <p>St. Saviour's Cathedral, Southwark.</p>
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London in from Four to Six Days.

The diligent visitor will be able to arrange programmes including all the first-rate and secondary sights already indicated, and to spare a morning or afternoon for a glimpse of South London, including not only St. Saviour's Cathedral, but Dickens's "Borough," the new County Hall, the Library of Lambeth Palace, Battersea Park, the Dulwich Picture Gallery, and the Horniman Museum. For a morning or afternoon trip from Town he will be able to select one or more of the following:—

<p>Windsor Castle and Park.</p> <p>Hampton Court.</p> <p>Virginia Water.</p> <p>Kew Gardens.</p> <p>Richmond.</p> <p>Burnham Beeches and Stoke Poges.</p>	<p>Crystal Palace.</p> <p>Epping Forest.</p> <p>Greenwich Park.</p> <p>A Trip up the Thames, say from Kingston to Windsor, or from Windsor to Maidenhead or Henley.</p>
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Most of these trips can be made by public motor as well as by rail. The Tourist Agencies arrange many whole-day motor drives, one of the most popular of which is:—Stoke Poges—Burnham Beeches—Maidenhead—Windsor—Hampton Court. Combined motor and launch trips are also arranged, such as car to Stoke Poges—launch Maidenhead to Windsor—car Windsor to Staines—launch Staines to Shepperton—car to Hampton Court and home (see also under "Motor Tours," p. 19).

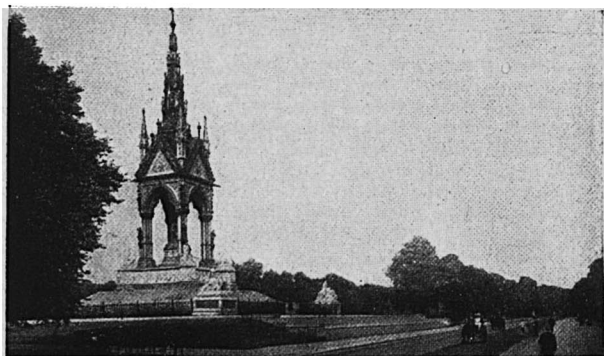


Photochrom Co., Ltd.,]

**"The Glorious Dead."
THE CENOTAPH, WHITEHALL.**

[London

London.



Photos] [Kotory and Levy.
GREEN PARK AND THE QUEEN VICTORIA MEMORIAL—MARBLE
ARCH—ALBERT MEMORIAL, KENSINGTON GARDENS.

London in a Week.

All the foregoing programmes have the advantage of elasticity and the corresponding disadvantage of vagueness. With a whole week at disposal it might be possible to draw up a more rigid programme, including practically everything of general interest. For such a programme the seven West End routes and the City and South London chapters into which this book is divided could be followed fairly closely. Any superfluous shoe-leather might well be devoted, if the weather be fine, to making closer acquaintance with London's parks and open spaces, of which, in our opinion, neither Londoners nor their visitors see half enough. One or two afternoons will probably be devoted to Exhibitions or entertainments, but the sightseer will, of course, economise time by reserving these for the evenings or for days when the weather is unfavourable for distant journeys.

First Day. Charing Cross—Northumberland Avenue—Victoria Embankment—Houses of Parliament—Westminster Abbey—St. Margaret's Church—Government Offices, Whitehall—Royal United Services Museum—Trafalgar Square—National Gallery—National Portrait Gallery.

Second Day. St. James's Park—St. James's Palace—London Museum—Buckingham Palace—Green Park—Hyde Park—Kensington Gardens—Kensington Palace—Albert Hall and Memorial—London University and Imperial Institute—Royal School of Art Needlework—Victoria and Albert Museum—Science Museum—Natural History Museum—Brompton Oratory—Piccadilly—Royal Academy—Museum of Practical Geology.

Third Day. Regent Street—Oxford Street—Wallace Collection—Regent's Park—Botanic Gardens—Zoological Gardens—Hamstead Heath—Return by Tube to Tottenham Court Road—British Museum—Foundling Hospital—Gray's Inn.

Fourth Day. Strand—Aldwych and Kingsway—Lincoln's Inn Fields (Soane Museum, etc.)—Lincoln's Inn—Law Courts—Chancery Lane—Record Office—Temple—Fleet Street—St. Paul's Cathedral—G.P.O.—St. Bartholomew's Church and the Charterhouse—St. Giles', Cripplegate—London Wall—Guildhall—Cheapside—Bank—Royal Exchange—Monument—Tower of London—Tower Bridge—Mint—Trinity House—Port of London Authority—Bank to Charing Cross by Underground Railway or omnibus.

Fifth Day. Westminster Bridge—London County Hall—St. Thomas's Hospital—Lambeth Palace and Church—Cross Lambeth Bridge to Tate Gallery—Chelsea Hospital—Cheyne Walk (Carlyle's House, etc.)—Battersea Park—Victoria—Roman Catholic Cathedral—Westminster School—Church House.

Fifth Day (alternative). Train or 'bus, Charing Cross to London Bridge station—St. Saviour's Cathedral—The Borough—Tram to Dulwich Picture Gallery—Crystal Palace—Tram to Greenwich Park and Royal Naval Hospital—London Docks—Bethnal Green Museum—Victoria Park—Epping Forest.

Sixth Day. Train, Waterloo or Paddington to Windsor (state apartments are not always open, but there is plenty otherwise to see). Afternoon steamer down River to Kingston—Hampton Court—Bushey Park.

Sixth Day (alternative). Kew Gardens—Richmond—Kingston—Hampton Court—Windsor Castle and Park—Slough—Burnham Beeches—Stoke Poges.

Seventh Day. Another excursion in the Environs (see "Trips from Town") or see places of necessity omitted in above rounds.

For Sunday in London see p. 26.