Looking backward is not always pleasant but it is generally profitable, since it is only by the experiences of the past that the possibilities of the future may be approximately gauged; but if the task of looking backward is ever likely to be a pleasant one it must be in conjunction with our Trade Charities; and if the time can ever be considered opportune that time is now. The schemes promoted by the founders of the Pension and Asylum Societies are completed, so that there are fair reasons for an impartial retrospect of the work while yet some few remain who were active in their inception.

It is already becoming difficult to obtain documentary evidence of the genesis of these institutions—of which the trade is justly proud—and our younger members are growing up with little opportunity of knowing the difficulties and struggles of the past generation, who prepared for them so fair a heritage at the cost of so much labour and self-denial.

It is in this spirit that we approach the task of reviewing the origin and development of our Trade Charities, addressing, from a neutral standpoint the future custodians rather than the past builders; and, feeling strongly the liability to err, we ask in advance your kind forgiveness and correction.

For some little time prior to the foundation of the Pension Society the number of aged bookbinders whose infirmities rendered them worthy of assistance was increasing beyond that proportion which the Lodges could deal with, the funds of the Trade Society being considered heavily taxed with the support of six pensioners allowed by rule, while the Society still suffered from the strike of 1826. The Society—at that time known as The Friendly Society of Journeymen Bookbinders of London and Westminster—was divided into five separate Lodges, each having a semi-independent financial position, but being federated for trade protection purposes.

In the summer of 1829, the necessity for some alteration urged Mr. Thomas Sirett, a member of Lodge 5, to propose that a special committee should be formed of two members from each Lodge, to inquire into and report upon the practicability of a benevolent purpose which he would lay before them. This proposition was carried, and a Committee appointed consisting of J. Shaw, Lodge 1; W. Sibly and J. Ibbott, Lodge 2; W. Tonge and J. Dunning, Lodge 3; Barry St. Leger, Lodge 4; and T. Sirett and C. Clarke, Lodge 5. No minutes exist of the proceedings of the Lodges of that date, so the reason for the appointment of but one member each by two of the Lodges cannot be found, nor of their subsequent action. It appears however by other evidence that Mr. T. Sirett outlined to this Committee a scheme for weekly harmonic meetings in various parts of the city and that the Committee rejected the proposal. After further conferences, and some alterations in the constitution of the Committee, the following report was submitted to the Lodges:—"We, the Committee appointed by the Lodges, to frame a Code of Laws for the formation of a Bookbinders' Pension Fund, beg leave to lay before our respective Lodges the following resolutions:

1. That it is practicable and advisable to form a Bookbinders' Pension Society.

2. That the Pension shall be confined to bookbinders only, without any distinction, except that each case shall rest upon its own merits.

3. That none but subscribers shall be allowed to vote at the election of candidates.

4. That the Committee be empowered to call a General Meeting of the trade and its friends, before whom they shall lay a list of resolutions to be adopted for the government of the Society.

5. That two pounds be advanced from each Lodge in order that the above may be carried into effect."
exempted." Subscribers of ten shillings per annum for ten years to receive one shilling per week extra. Four shillings per annum (payable quarterly) constituted membership. In order to establish a permanent fund, one half the donations and one fourth of the subscriptions were to be invested in the public funds for the first five years, and no election was to take place until £100 was in the treasurer's hands. The secretary was to receive £10 per annum and five per cent. on all monies he personally collected.

Under these rules and by dint of the strenuous exertions of the Committee upon the enthusiasm of the trade, the funds rapidly increased so that in April, 1831, only sixteen months from its foundation, the Society was able to elect its first three pensioners, and in October of the same year three more, one of the latter being a female. By the time of the second report in April, 1832, two more had been elected, making eight pensioners on the funds of the institution, the subscription to which had now been raised to five shillings per annum, and which was making remarkable headway. Following these rapid strides however, came misfortune: a defalcation in the secretary's accounts was discovered, which led to his expulsion from office, and the election of his brother, Mr. Thos. Joseph Dunning (whose portrait we give), who gave the generous assurance that he would repay the deficit, and strictly adhered to his promise.

For the next three years the Society pursued a very even course, progressing in proportion to the zeal of its supporters, and correcting the small abuses that arose in connexion with the earlier elections. A slight diminution in the number of subscribers in 1834 resulted from a very strong feeling which existed against the election of Mr. J. W. Kuckhof, on the ground that he was an alien and not a member of the Trade Society, but the loss was made up in 1835 by renewed exertions on the part of the Committee and the recourse to theatre benefits and aquatic excursions, which mark the earlier stages of the progress of the Society, as well as by an altered method of collecting the subscriptions, the weekly shop collection being initiated this year.

Towards the close of the year 1835, the secretary showed signs of declining health. He had worked very hard and heartily at his duties as secretary to the Pension Society, collecting himself, during the three years of his service, about £600. Besides working at Messrs. Leighton & Eesles in Exmouth-street, Clerkenwell, he was always busily engaged in Trade Society work, being president of Lodge 3, and deeply engrossed in the study of political economy, as well as writing for newspapers. This large amount of work and burning of the midnight oil brought on a very serious mental illness, that in 1836 caused him to attempt suicide. The Society then appointed Mr. James England as secretary pro tem., but as there seemed little prospect of the recovery of Mr. Dunning, a resolution was passed at the April meeting: "That the election for the office of secretary shall be by ballot." Two candidates were in the field, James Robertson and James England, but the ballot on May 10 decided the contest in favour of Mr. England.

[To be continued.]
Next we learn that at the April Meeting, 1836, a special vote of £10 was given to Mr. J. T. Dunning, "for his assiduous services while filling the office of Secretary," no doubt granted partly on account of his ill-health, which continued to be so unsatisfactory that his friends nominated him as a candidate for the Pension at the ensuing election in October, but on the list of candidates accompanying the ballot paper the following note occurs: "T. J. Dunning was a candidate, but his friends have withdrawn his name for the present in consequence of a late alteration in the rules of his Benefit Society, which will entitle him to full pay for twelve months, of which they were not previously aware." Happily for Mr. Dunning, and fortunately for the Society and the trade generally, he recovered before the close of the year, and was soon able to resume the interest he ever evinced in all that concerned its welfare.

Shortly after the meeting, April 19th, the subject of the establishment of a Provident Asylum for Decayed Bookbinders was first brought forward at a meeting of the Pension Committee, and a sub-committee was appointed to consider the question and report to the full committee. Their conclusions having been adopted by the committee, were submitted to the trade at the General Meeting in October, and the plan offered was for "one society with one common fund and interest," but the committee met with such a powerful opposition from the best speakers at the meeting, who urged that they "were grasping at a shadow and would lose the substance—the Pension Society," and so well succeeded with the argument that the meeting passed a resolution setting aside the plan of the sub-committee, and requesting them to bring forward a fresh plan by the following April, to raise a fund independent of the funds and interests of the Pension Society. The rejection of a plan of such importance, not hastily adopted, gave the committee much pain; they felt themselves "insulted and abused," and when they left the platform they were so annoyed that they requested the secretary, Mr. England, to call a special general meeting immediately for the purpose of electing another committee, as they wished to resign, feeling that the responsibility for any other plan should lie upon those who had procured the rejection of their own; the temperate counsels of the secretary, however, prevailed, especially as he point blank refused to call a meeting, there having been no official resolution passed to that effect.

Notwithstanding this temporary pacification, within a week he received a requisition to call a special meeting, signed by every man in Mr. Hayday's shop—then one of the most influential in the trade—numbering about forty, amongst which were five of the committee. Mr. England then consulted some of those around him in Mr. Herring's shop, who agreed to meet the requisitionists with him, and endeavour to persuade them to give up their intention before proceeding further. This was done, with the result that the unpleasant matter dropped, or else, with the state of feeling then existing between the two parties, in all probability the project for the establishment of an asylum would have miscarried.

The sub-committee then again investigated the practicability of the project upon the lines indicated, and at the General Meeting of the Pension Society, April 25th, 1837, they submitted the following proposals, which were accepted:

1. That a fund for the purpose of building an Asylum should be raised, by donations and the profits which may be derived from any speculation undertaken by the committee for that express purpose, or such portion of the speculation as the committee, for the time being, may deem expedient; and at all times such
proportion to be named in the bills for the occasion. Moved by C. Clark, seconded by W. Tonge.

2. That the treasurer, trustees, and auditors, for the time being, do hold the Asylum in trust for the Pension Society, and the committee, for the time being, do visit and attend to the internal regulations, and report accordingly to the general committee on their usual monthly meetings. Moved by C. Geddes, seconded by J. Stephenson.

3. That when the Asylum is built, all the pensioners then on the funds shall be entitled to a residence therein, and afterwards, all persons must be eligible according to the rules of the Pension Society—shall be elected by ballot—and the votes taken in the usual way. Moved by D. Cameron, seconded by W. Jefferson.

In pursuance of these resolutions the Committee of the Pension Society appointed a sub-committee from their body (with power to add to their number from the subscribers to the Pension Society); Mr. Charles Davis Walther accepting the post of honorary secretary, and Mr. England that of assistant secretary and collector. Setting to work with a will, they flooded the trade with circulars appealing to employers and employed on behalf of the embryo institution, recommending the appointment of a collector in each shop, and sitting once a month themselves to receive subscriptions. By February, 1838, £550 had been subscribed from the trade alone, and by the General Meeting of the Pension Society, April 24th in that year, they were able to report the amount subscribed as £780, a magnificent reward for their exertions at a time when the trade was suffering from severe depression. At this meeting it was resolved: "That donors of 10/- to the Asylum shall be entitled to one vote at all elections; £1 to two votes; £2 and upwards to three votes. Subscribers of 5/- per annum shall be entitled to one vote at all elections; 10/- to two votes; and 20/- and upwards to three votes."

It will be observed that thus far everything that had been done, had been with the explicit purpose of keeping the Pension and the Asylum Societies in conjunction with each other in all respects but that of funds, the fear being, lest the strain on the trade should prove too great for the support of the two institutions by the same means; consequently it was desirable to raise funds for the Asylum by donations, for the purpose of steering clear of the interests of the Pension Society, whose funds were nearly all raised by subscriptions. But in order to stimulate the benevolence of the trade, the committee in recommending, and the Pension Society in adopting the regulation of one vote for a 10/- donation departed from the rules of the Pension Society, and made a grievous mistake, which was but the beginning of others that cost much time and trouble in remedying.

In 1839 the Asylum Society held its first general meeting on May 23rd, totally independent of the Pension Society, which had held its meeting as usual in April, although the same chairman, Mr. Walther, presided at each. The report of the committee, recommending the purchase of a piece of ground at Balls Pond Road, containing about one acre and one-eighth for £550, was agreed to. To Mr. J. England "for his services as assistant secretary and collector," £5 was voted by the committee, for the work was very arduous and no provision had been made even for the loss of time on the duty. It was then proposed "That Edward Tickner, Esq., John Smith, Esq., and Charles Davis Walther, Esq., be requested to accept the office of Trustees to this Society with the addition of three journeymen; the journeymen shall be nominated at this meeting and elected by ballot." Moved by E. Russell, seconded by S. Hogg. Over this proposition a fierce fight ensued, for the feeling in the trade just then was very bitter between the Masters' Association on the one hand and the Trade Society on the other over the apprenticeship question, a state of things which culminated in the great dispute of 1839. The meeting was adjourned for a fortnight, and on June 6th Mr. Walther informed the meeting that the other two trustees and himself "would decline accepting the office of trustees if they were to be accompanied with three journeymen." The meeting then resolved: "That the committee shall have the power to select three gentlemen from the donors to fill the office of trustees, with three journeymen, the journeymen to be nominated this night for their election by ballot." This was carried into effect by the committee appointing from the donors Messrs. J. Clarke, E. Soul, and R. Stagg, representing the employers, and the Society electing Messrs. B. Teasdale, E. Cooney, and J. T. Dunning for the journeymen. Of these Mr. J. Clarke was not a subscriber to the Pension Society. In reference to this unfortunate decision it may be well to quote a letter to Mr. C. Tuckett, Junr., written in 1840, by Mr. J. England, who was well qualified to judge of the effects of such an action. He says: "I quite agree that it was a very grave and unfortunate mistake in 1839 to displace those three gentlemen trustees (who had been duly appointed in 1837, and had acted for the Asylum from the first), because they would not accept three journeymen as colleagues; that ridiculous fancy to have three journeymen trustees, I think must be attributed to the severe struggle then going on in the trade, and to a good deal of wrong-headed chartism at that time, and which I have since stated publicly on the platform in the Mechanic's. The act did certainly lose us many good supporters, amongst whom the foremost were Mr. Walther and Mr. Tuckett, who had both done much good service in the cause."

At the present day it is equally hard to find any adequate reason either for such a strange persistence on the part of the journeymen for the election of three journeymen as trustees, or for the reluctance on the part of the then existing trustees to accept journeymen colleagues, so that Mr. England's note must be accepted as the most probable explanation. The effect was that the Asylum, no longer held in trust for the Pension Society, became a distinct and independent institution, rivalling and outbidding the Pension Society in soliciting the benevolence of the trade.

The rules which were then passed show this fully.

(To be continued.)

Gratuitous instruction is given to apprentices in all branches of the bookmaking crafts every evening from 8 to 10 o'clock at the well-known Estienne School, Paris.
The Trade Charities.

Without quoting more than is necessary, it is well to mark the main points of divergence from the Pension Society's rules, as exhibited in the rules of the Asylum Society:—The donors and subscribers constituted themselves a society for the purpose of building and supporting an Asylum. A ten shillings donation secured a life vote—two guineas being required by the Pension Society. In the eligibility of the candidates, the qualification of the Pension rules was not adhered to. The officers were to be elected by the donors and subscribers at a general meeting held in October—no longer at the Pension April meeting. The trustees were to hold the Asylum in trust for the donors and subscribers; and the committee became independent of the Pension committee, and no word is said as to the pensioners being entitled to a residence in the Asylum when built.

With this resolve to establish a separate and distinct society there was a very firm faith in the ultimate success of the undertaking, the members feeling that the magnificent promises of the trade had placed the society already upon a firm footing, when they resolved on the purchase of the ground at Balls Pond, but although the amount subscribed was £780, we find by the balance sheets issued that up to May 15, 1839, only £514 18s. 6d. had been realized, and that after expenses had been deducted there remained but £471 17s. 5½d. in hand towards the £550 required as purchase money. Under these circumstances, the Asylum committee sought and obtained the aid of the Pension Society by the loan of £100 at three and a half per cent., the same rate of interest obtainable by funding the stock, and with this help, during the summer of 1839, they secured the freehold ground chosen, an exhausted brickfield, bounded by the grounds of the Metropolitan Benefit Societies' Asylum on the side and by public thoroughfares on the other sides. The covenant of purchase required that a wall 180 feet in length should be erected on the north side, in King Henry's walk, by the 18th July, 1839, and in order to meet the cost of this erection a dinner was held at the White Conduit House, on July 13, which brought in about £30 and a few good annual subscribers. Mr. Fred. Herring was first chosen as architect, but he had to withdraw from the office after submitting some plans, through pressure of business, and Mr. L. Whitby superintended the erection of the wall, the laying down of a 2-foot barrel drain and the setting up of a fence with a wooden gate in the centre of the frontage as a public entrance, in uniformity with the adjoining institution. On the completion of the wall, the pier at the end was raised one foot higher than the rest of the work, and an inscription stone was set in stating the length of this boundary wall, and as being the property of, and standing upon ground belonging to the Bookbinders' Provident Asylum, A.D. 1840. In order to exhaust all possible means of profit, the ground was then put into cultivation, turnips being sown; these however produced a loss, owing to the poorness of the soil and want of manure. A crop of potatoes was then tried, but altogether, after a lot of hard work, cultivating the ground was not a success.

In the ground purchased, the trade had a tangible evidence of the good work already performed and a helpful stimulus to renewed exertions in order to secure the attainment of the whole project, and the work of the next few years—taking the numbers in the trade and the difficulties of surrounding circumstances into full consideration—has perhaps never been equalled, resulting in magnificently liberal contributions for benevolent purposes. And not only was...
the Asylum Society daily acquiring fresh funds in a very rapid manner through the strenuous exertions of its committee, but, the kindliest impulses of the trade being aroused, the funds of the Pension Society were also benefited, so that for the first year or so after the Asylum scheme was launched the Pension Society was even more prosperous than it had been in preceding years, but the great bulk of the money for each institution was collected by different means.

The scheme first proposed by Mr. T. Sirett for the establishment of the Pension Society was not sufficiently stable for a society whose conditions of existence were that monies collected should be paid away in a regularly set sum, but much of that scheme was well suited for collecting money that was to be saved and invested, with no definite date for its dispersion, and consequently no need for that steady regularity of incoming demanded for the due performance of its obligations on appointed dates, and although Mr. Sirett was no longer a member of the trade—having been excluded in 1834 for going into Mr. Hayday’s, a closed shop—the main idea of his plan was now put into being, and weekly harmonic meetings were established in various parts of the city. These became known as the auxiliaries, and the prominent part they played in the collection of funds for the Asylum may be best judged by the fact that the total amount received from them, from 1837 till October, 1863, was £2,369 17s. 1d., or more by £122 17s. 1d. than the whole cost of building the centre and wing then erected.

The first auxiliary formed was held at the Seckford Arms, Seckford-street, Clerkenwell, with James Robertson as hon. sec.; the next at the Plough, Museum-street, Bloomsbury, W. C. Brown, hon. sec.; and a third at the Coach and Horses, Fann-street, Aldersgate-street, J. Shepherd, hon. sec. The rules appear to have been substantially the same, the main idea being the payment of one penny per week by each member, which was saved until ten shillings was in the funds, when a drawing took place and the winner had a ten shillings’ donation placed to his account on the books of the Asylum Society. Besides these weekly contributions a special “plate” was sometimes collected during the progress of the harmonic part of the proceedings, which appear to have been heartily enjoyed and therefore generally attended by a large number, not only of binders, but of other friends of the movement, for in those days the homes of the men were invariably close around the scenes of their daily work.

The success of these three auxiliaries soon brought others into the field, such as at the Hat and Tun, Hatton-wall; the Jolly Butchers, Warwick-lane; the Crown and Anchor, King’s Head-court, Shoe-lane; the Gentleman and Porter, New Street-square; and others, all eager to vie with the older ones, but that held at the Plough was undoubtedly the most successful.

Besides these means of procuring donations country auxiliaries were started, the first being as far away as Aberdeen, organized by Mr. A. Smith, in September, 1841, with ten subscribers for a start at twopence per week. In 1843 this auxiliary issued an appeal to the trade of that town, enclosing a circular to the binders of the provinces issued by the Asylum Committee. The Aberdeen appeal reads: “They trust they will not be deemed presumptuous, ... especially when it is considered that nearly one-fourth of the trade in London are Scotchmen.” We may well excuse this little boast, which was scarcely borne out by fact, but it shows that there were a good many in the great city for whom their kindly feelings were aroused.

In 1842 an effort was made by Mr. Charles Dent— who had thus early begun to take a keen interest in the affairs of the trade—to stem the rushing into public-houses, which the system of auxiliaries engendered, and a protest was made by the formation of an auxiliary in Mr. Wright’s shop, Noel-street, Soho, with Mr. Dent as secretary. The rules were prefaced with a statement of the reasons which induced Mr. Dent to suggest to his fellow-workers the establishment of such a plan and conclude: “To sum up then in a few words the foregoing observations, we declare our objection to the transaction of business in public-houses on account of the evils they engender. We object to enrich a publican under the plea of promoting a good cause. We would reduce the expenditure of the Society by the employing of unpaid officers, and we would collect the largest amount of subscriptions by the simplest possible machinery, giving to each subscriber the full value of his subscription.” The rules provided for the payment of at least one penny per week per member; when ten shillings was thus raised, an election took place and the winner was entitled to the donation, but to continue his subscription until he had paid up the ten shillings before being eligible for another draw.

Another means resorted to in order to obtain funds was by the distribution of juvenile collecting boxes, but these never produced any material benefit.

Next to the auxiliaries, the excursions and entertainments, organized in conjunction with the Pension Society, brought in large sums, and for years aquatic excursions, dinners, balls, and theatrical diversions succeeded one another in large number and great variety; even a series of phrenological lectures brought in thirteen shillings—the wonder is they brought so much. Some of these entertainments inspired our fellow craftsmen to tremendous flights, and money was privately expended in rushing into print with verse that sought to enlist the sympathies of readers, but, perhaps, more often excited their contempt. One of these attempts, far better than most others, was made on the occasion of a benefit at the Royal Gardens, Vauxhall, September 17th, 1849—No name is attached, but it is probably the work of a very earnest and devoted man who was a leading spirit of the time, Mr. John Jaffray, and as it is improbable that more than two or three are in existence, we may perhaps preserve it in our pages before these papers come to an end.

[To be continued.]

QUEEN VICTORIA—as she will always be called, despite her greater title of empress—is said to have the largest bound book ever made. It weighs 63 lbs. is a foot and a half in thickness, and contains the Jubilee addresses of congratulation on her 50 years of sovereignty.
EARLY in 1842 the Committee, who had been busy for some time on the selection of suitable plans and elevations for the proposed Asylum, submitted four out of fourteen which had been received for the approval of the trade, together with two alternate proposals for dealing with the spare ground. The first, proposed to let off on leases part of the frontage on Ball's Pond-road, containing 116 ft., enough for five houses, and 236 ft. in King Henry's Walk, enough for six more houses, thus leaving a square piece of ground on which the Asylum might face Ball's Pond-road. The second, proposed the letting on leases of the whole of the 260 ft. frontage, for fourteen houses, so that the Asylum would face King Henry's walk. The first of these two proposals, when put to the vote by ballot, was carried, and by the ballot it was decided to accept the second of Mr. Charles Dunning's plans, and to commence building in the following spring.

In order to meet the expenses required a special and urgent appeal was sent out all over the provinces, and Mr. John Jaffray undertook a journey through many of the large towns on his way to Dublin in order to back it up by his personal influence, which was not slight. He was passionately fond of walking, and this journey was almost wholly performed on foot. The result, as reported in the Quarterly Circular, Sept., 1842, was that the appeal was likely to be in a great measure realized through his instrumentality, for promises had been received from Oxford, Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Wrexham, Liverpool, and Preston. His valuable help in all matters pertaining to the trade or its charitable institutions, few can have any conception of at this present time, as the force of his influence was most often beneath the surface. His character has been preserved, however, by one of his contemporaries:

"No man in any trade could have been more earnest in his endeavour to impress his convictions upon his fellow, nor more self-sacrificing and disinterested in the promotion of the trade's welfare; none more successful in his efforts to improve the institutions connected with the trade; of an unquenchable thirst for trade knowledge, a spendthrift in acquiring it and a prodigal in dispensing it, quick of wit yet slow of speech, his shrewd observations were imparted mostly to others for oral delivery. . . . No man living amongst us ever so much directed the current of events into a channel of improvement in trade matters as Mr. Jaffray."

On Monday, May 8th, 1843, operations were commenced for the building of the central part of the Asylum, by Messrs. Plasket and Shelton, whose tender, £1,069, being lowest, was accepted. No foundation stone was laid, but arrangements were made for affixing an inscription stone in the face of the building, and it was the intention of the Committee to have had the names of the trustees carved thereon. This intention aroused the strongest opposition amongst the members, and every effort was made, by petition, to prevent the idea being carried into effect, some petitions even objecting to any inscription stone at all. "We, the undersigned . . . beg leave most earnestly to remonstrate with the Committee against the impropriety of raising an Inscription Stone on the new building, and to assure the Committee that it is our firm conviction it would be the cause of great dissatisfaction, and would induce many to withdraw their subscriptions." "We, the undersigned, understanding that it is the intention that the names of the Trustees shall be placed on the Inscription Stone, beg to state that such would be highly prejudicial if it is carried into effect." It was a simple matter, but the trade felt that, if any honour was to be done, the Trustees were not the only ones, nor the most deserving, to have their names engraved in stone upon a building reared by the efforts of so many; and the petitions
notwithstanding several drawbacks caused by periodic depressions of trade, but the great success attending the auxiliary of the Asylum Society induced Mr. Jaffray to draw up a plan for the formation of auxiliaries for the Pension Society, and a preliminary meeting was held at the "Savoy Palace" on January 12th, 1846, to establish one there, when sixteen persons subscribed one shilling each to give it a start. In 1847 another was started at "The Globe" and a third at "George and Blue Boar." The life of these auxiliaries was, however, very short, the first scarcely lasting twelve months, the last having no effective existence at all, while the one at "The Globe" only lasted about three years. The fact was that the auxiliaries had seen their best days and were beginning to decline, though their decadence was not so marked as to be readily seen. By the latter end of 1847, however, the decline had reached so marked a stage that several had lapsed, and the Committee had great difficulty in reinvigorating those that still kept the field, for the depression of trade was widespread and long continued. At "The Plough" an effort was made to introduce conversational discussion meetings, and the first subject offered for consideration was "The Irish Rebellion of '98."

During this time, from June, 1842, nothing had been done to put into effect the resolution of the Society that the spare ground should be let off on lease. There were many conflicting opinions, both on Committee and among many of the leading men in the Society, as to the best means of carrying the resolution into effect, but when in 1847 and 1848 efforts were made to obtain the sanction of the meeting to certain proposals, the Committee were thwarted in their intentions by a resolution that the spare ground should be retained for the purposes of the Society. It did not stand altogether idle, for it was let to a florist for £5 per annum, but it might well have brought in ten times that amount. In January, 1849, Mr. B. Teasdale, one of the Trustees, submitted a plan, "by the adoption of which the Asylum may be built and endowed with an income of £130 per year by 1870." This plan, which seemed feasible enough on paper, was rejected as being impracticable, and looking at it now it seems to have been based upon too sanguine an expectation of the possibilities of the Society. It assumed that by Michaelmas, 1850, the sum of £500 would be in the hands of the Society, and that by borrowing £1,000 more at 5 per cent., the Society might build eight houses in King Henry's walk for a £20 rental each. That by 1855 the £1,000 might be repaid, and in 1860 another £400 borrowed at the same rate of interest, which with the balance in hand would build five more houses facing Ball's Pond-road, with a £30 rental each. By 1865 the £400 was to be repaid with interest, and a wing built to the Asylum at a cost of £1,100, and in 1870 the other wing could be built at the same cost, leaving a balance in hand of £440, and a permanent income from the houses built of eight at £20 = £160, and five at £30 = £150 = £310. That the Society rightly judged the scheme as based upon too sanguine an expectation may be easily seen: for in 1850 instead of having £500 only £353 7s. 1d. was in hand, and no sufficient allowance had been made for the loss of rental by houses remaining
Mildew in Engravings.

Mildew may be caused by some chemical used in the manufacture of the paper on which the engraving is printed, by attracting and absorbing moisture from the atmosphere, or from a damp wall. Ironmould is probably produced by the rusting of minute particles of metal which may have become blended with the paper when in a state of pulp by the wear of the machinery or the disintegration of buttons, etc., in the process of tearing the rags to shreds, but in all cases the formation of mildew and ironmould is assisted by damp. It is, however, satisfactory to know that any engravings so injured are capable of restoration. If on the first appearance of white fungus-like mildew spots the engraving be taken out of its frame, carefully aired, the spots removed with a soft camel-hair brush, the glass cleaned on the inside, and the engraving refilled, that is all that is necessary, and all that we recommend to be done; but should brown spots have appeared, then the engraving must be put into a special bath, which should only be done by a practised and skilful hand, for it must be remembered that the paper upon which engravings are printed is unsized, like blotting-paper, very absorbent, and when damp very easily torn.

With regard to the restoration of water-colour drawings, no general observation will apply. The paper on which they are painted varies considerably; as a rule it is very hard, and is heavily sized. Artists as a rule prefer old paper, the size in which has from age undergone an organic change, the nature or cause of which has not yet been discovered. We have had in our possession sheets of paper apparently in perfect order, but which, on having a sheet of colour passed over it, developed so many spots that it was absolutely useless. We have seen other paper in which the spots were developed only when a particular wash or colour was applied. Hence we say that no general observation applies to the treatment of water-colour drawings.

A Curious Specimen of Bookbinding.

In a recent article in a contemporary by M. E. Rogers on "Books and Bookbinding in Syria and Palestine," he says, "The oldest and simplest example of bookbinding that I have ever met with was shown me by a Samaritan. The volume was about fifteen inches square, and nearly five inches in thickness. It consisted of fifteen parts or quires of fifteen sheets each, fastened together very securely with strong cord or twist. The leaves had evidently never been pressed, and no glue or paste had ever been used. The back was strengthened by two rather clumsy blocks of polished walnut wood. Each block was pierced with six holes through which the cords were passed and neatly secured.
The Trade Charities.

Very serious and long continued depression in trade, following upon other difficulties, had so reduced the funds of the Trade Society in 1848 that money was urgently needed, and in these straits application was made to the Asylum Society for a loan of £200, for which the Trade Society promised 5 per cent. interest and repayment within two years. This request was immediately complied with, which shows that however much they were separated for business purposes the natural ties between the two bodies were as strong as those of blood relationship. Following upon this depression came the great internal struggle which rose out of the agitation against cheap bibles, and which split the Trade Society into two, a struggle lasting from Sept., 1849, till June, 1850; but throughout, and after the exciting events, which led to the formation of the Day Workers Society, we see no signs that the funds of either of the Trade Charities suffered by reason of the rival politics of the opposing parties, on the contrary, the tendency was towards a rivalry of benevolence; certainly no more loss was experienced by either of the Charities than could be accounted for by the slackness of trade and the hesitating policy of the publishers, owing to the probable early repeal of the Paper Duties.

The wisdom of the policy pursued by the Pension Society in husbanding a share of the yearly contributions as a funded stock was now fully proven. By 1849 its capital amounted to upwards of £1,100, although they were paying away annually £310, but by 1850 the slack times were felt so much that there was a deficit of £41, which compelled them to sell out £100 worth of stock to meet the contingency which had thus been carefully provided for.

With the Asylum Society there appears to have been no apprehension of trouble, for at the October meeting, 1850, all attention was turned towards further building: Mr. Teasdale secured an addition to the Report of the Committee as an instruction: "That the Committee take measures to complete the Asylum by building one of the wings thereof," and several suggestions were made for raising the necessary funds. Mr. Teasdale wanted a separate Endowment Society, but the proposal was not received with favour. Mr. B. West (the chairman) and Mr. J. Hendley pushed forward suggestions as to loans, Mr. Hendley urging the advisability of borrowing £500 from the Pension Society, while Mr. West advocated the raising of a loan fund out of their own pockets. These suggestions the Committee held in view, but it was deemed desirable that at least double the sum then in hand, £353, should be raised before starting operations, and to get money in quickly fresh and urgent appeals were extensively circulated, not only throughout the trade, but also among the nobility and gentry.

The response of the nobility and gentry was not large, only about £86; the principal share came, as it ever has done, from the workpeople themselves, their contribution being £120 19s. 9d.

While the enthusiasm of the trade was thus being kept at a high tension amongst the younger and able-bodied members, the Pension Society found that owing to the prevailing slackness, the older ones were suffering most acutely, and amongst the ever increasing numbers of candidates subscriptions according to rule, so that at the April meeting, 1851, it was resolved that candidates for the pension should not be compelled to continue their subscriptions.

By October the Asylum Committee, although very satisfied with the splendid exertions of the trade, were not secure enough in their estimate of probabilities to justify them in commencing building operations, and they announced their intention of deferring action for
another season, but this aroused great dissatisfaction at the meeting, although it was pointed out that the houses would not yet be wanted. The evident wish of the trade had to be carried out however, and tenders for building were solicited. Messrs. Cubitt's tender for £1,178 was accepted, which, besides the building of the west wing, included the erection of a dwarf wall and iron railings along the frontage. The money in hand amounted to only £600, and by October 31st the building was to be completed, when the remainder of the sum would have to be paid: truly a serious consideration for the Committee. Under these circumstances an application was made to the Pension Committee for a loan of £600 at an advance upon the government rate of interest, as had been suggested by Mr. Henndley. The application was well received by the Pension Committee who unanimously agreed to the proposition, but to the consternation of everyone, the Trustees refused to sanction or abide by the decision of the Committee. They thereupon requisitioned a special meeting of the Society for Tuesday, December 4th.

In the midst of these difficulties Mr. J. England resigned the office of secretary, and a large number of members requested Mr. J. Jeffrey, who had been one of the original sub-committee on the inception of the Asylum, to stand. A contest, however, took place between Messrs. J. Jeffrey, G. Haggis, senr., and W. T. Boddy; Mr. Jeffrey being elected at the October meeting, 1852.

At the same meeting the question of letting the spare ground was again raised, and a special meeting was called for December 7th, when it was resolved: "That the Trustees be empowered to let the spare ground belonging to this Society situated in Ball's Pond-road and King Henry's-walk, on building leases, on the most advantageous terms and in respect to duration of leases as they may see fit. And this meeting recommend that, if possible, not less than third-rate houses should be built in Ball's Pond-road, upon leases not exceeding 80 years, and not less than fourth-rate houses should be built in King Henry's-walk, upon leases not exceeding 60 years, subject to the opinion of the Committee." Thus this matter was finally settled, after many contests of party opinion occupying the constant attention of the Society since 1842, when the ground might have been let for £30 per annum; and the opinion of the mover of the resolution (Mr. T. J. Dunning) endorsed "that however desirable it might be to hear an animated debate at the annual meetings, £30 per night (at least) was too much to pay for that pleasure."

The special meeting of December 14th had been requisitioned in order "to authorise and guarantee the Trustees in lending £600 at 4 per cent. per annum" to the Asylum Society, upon which a bill for two years renewable, signed by the Trustees of the Society, was to be given. The Trustees, upon the first intimation of the decision of the Committee, were willing to sell out stock for the purpose of the loan, "but afterwards changed their minds and required the sanction of the Society at a general meeting convened for the purpose. In consequence of correspondence which subsequently took place, a further change was effected in the minds of the Trustees. While willing to sell out if the meeting so decided, Mr. E. Tuckett required that the decision should be unanimous, while Mr. C. D. Walther stated that "whatever might be the decision of the Society at its general meeting, he would not sell out the stock, believing that doing so, for the purpose stated, was contrary to the rules of the Society, which might subject him, as trustee, to legal proceedings in chancery, for misapplication of the Society's funds." It was argued by Mr. Dent that the question was whether the Society and the Committee should control the funds, or whether the funds should be controlled, even contrary to the decision of the Society, by the three gentlemen who might happen to be elected trustees. On the contrary, Mr. Walther argued that the lending of this money was contrary to rule, and that the Society had no right to call upon the trustees to violate the written law; he was perfectly satisfied with the security, indeed offered to lend £100 of his own money upon the same security, and suggested that twenty-four bills for £25 each should be drawn and accepted by the Trustees of the Asylum Society, and he believed that within twenty-four hours they would be taken up. A resolution was carried "That the Trustees be called upon to sell out £600 stock and place the same in the hands of the Treasurer." Mr. Walther, however, refused to abide by the decision of the meeting.

Failing in this application for a loan to pay money which would have been due in October, but that the completion of the new wing had been deferred till January, 1853, the Committee then resorted to applications to the trade at large for individual loans of from £1 and upwards, but they only received £109 by loans, though further donations were received to the amount of £54. The Day Workers Society, however, granted a loan of £150 on a bill for two years, renewable, in addition to a previous gift of £20, and the difficulty of the situation was further relieved by arrangement with Messrs. Cubitt. One noteworthy feature more, in order to assist the Committee out of the difficulty, Mr. C. Tuckett, of the British Museum, offered to his workpeople that if they would generally agree to pay an extra subscription, for males of sixpence per week, for females of threepence per week for twenty-six weeks, for each week he would pay a yearly subscription of five shillings, the result being that nearly £37 was raised for the Society from that shop alone. Notwithstanding all these efforts, the debt on the new building was not finally extinguished till 1859. The Society it is true had the meagre satisfaction of seeing a lopsided erection of houses, but no sooner were they erected than the members found out that the prediction of the Committee had been verified, for in 1854 there were three vacancies in the original block, and no candidates eligible to fill them. Under these circumstances the Committee decided to let off five of the new houses as the best means of helping to raise money to extinguish the debt and of keeping them in tenable condition.

Mr. J. Hendley was for several years a hard working member of both the Pension and Asylum Committees, and although he has been away in America since 1852 he still sends an annual subscription.

[To be continued.]
The Trade Charities.

In consequence of the conflict of opinion between the members and the Trustees of the Pension Society, concerning the propriety of loaning £600 to the Asylum Society, the Annual Meeting in April, 1853, was mainly occupied with the settlement of the question of enrolment under Act 10, Geo. IV., which had been intended from the first, the rules having been drawn with that direct purpose in view, but it had not yet been carried into effect; partly because of objections raised by certain noble Presidents and Vice-Presidents who thought that if the Society, being enrolled, should become insolvent at any time, its liabilities towards its pensioners would fall upon their shoulders. This erroneous opinion was only removed by direct reference to Mr. Tidd Pratt, the registrar, but it also brought out the fact that the reference to the act already contained in the rules, laid the Society open to the charge of fraud unless the enrolment was duly carried out, so it was decided to have amended rules prepared for that purpose.

At this meeting also there arose a difficulty concerning the secretaryship which will necessitate going back a little. In the previous year the work of the secretary had greatly increased, especially in the Asylum Society, and as Mr. England was getting advanced in years, it was not surprising that complaints became plentiful. Feeling his inability to continue the whole of the work, he resigned the office of secretary to the Asylum Society, and Mr. J. Jeffrey was elected in his place, but the retention of the better paid of the two offices seems to have annoyed some of the members of the Pension Committee and others outside, with the result that so strong a desire for Mr. England's retirement was manifested, and so continuous were the complaints, that he tendered his resignation to the Pension Committee. This, the majority declined to accept; thus reassured, he reconsidered his resignation and eventually determined to withdraw it. However, Mr. J. Jeffrey was nominated to oppose him, and at the Annual Meeting, 1853, was declared duly elected by a majority of 4, the numbers being J. Jeffrey 501, J. England 497. Against this return Mr. England protested on the ground that certain ballots had been rejected by the Committee, which, if allowed, would have given him a majority of votes. At the meeting the disputed ballots were sealed up and placed in the hands of the chairman, Mr. C. Tuckett, senr., until the Committee meeting on the Tuesday following, when they were subjected to a close investigation, with the result that the Committee confirmed the rejection of one ballot for six votes for Mr. England, thus leaving him still in a minority. Mr. England protested against this decision and demanded arbitration according to Rule 18, which the Committee decided could not be granted, and at the first meeting of the new Committee, which was elected on the April meeting night, the decision was confirmed, and Mr. Jeffrey being recognised as secretary, Mr. England was formally requested to hand over the books, etc. To this request Mr. England gave a point blank refusal unless arbitration was granted or the decision of a special general meeting taken. Scarcely knowing how to act with such an unforeseen difficulty staring them in the face, they saw no better plan than that of calling a special meeting, and circulars were prepared for the purpose, Mr. England offering to allow Mr. Jeffrey to take the names of the members from the ledger; but he requested the Committee to allow the following words to be placed in the circular: "Mr. England having requested an arbitration on the disputed votes of the late election, which was refused, he has refused to give up the books and papers, etc., belonging to the Society." This fair and moderate request was also refused by the Committee, and
circulars were issued calling the meeting “in consequence of Mr. England having refused to give up the books and other property in his possession, belonging to the Society, the Committee regret their inability to supply the subscribers who may have changed their residences with a notice, but beg as a favour that those members who receive them will be pleased to circulate them as widely as possible, and they trust that there will be a full attendance of members on such an important occasion.” The notice concluded “none but members of the Society will be admitted.” The suppression of the reason for Mr. England’s refusal, no doubt did much to inflame the angry feelings already existing in the minds of many who considered that Mr. England was being unjustly treated, and did not tend to the calm and dispassionate discussion necessary to solve the questions at issue.

The meeting was held on May 31, 1853, and was one of the most excited ever held in connexion with the Society, there being an incessant uproar almost from the start to the close. No provision was made for excluding those who were not members of the Society; no reasons were offered for refusing Mr. England’s request as regards the wording of the circular; and the reasons given for refusing arbitration were lamentably weak, especially as arbitration was demanded not only by Mr. England, but by Mr. W. Richards, whose ballot had been rejected. The plea raised was: “that arbitration could not take place unless the Society was enrolled, which it was not, consequently no arbitrators had yet been appointed”; and the Committee therefore relied mainly upon justifying their own action in rejecting certain ballots, raising difficult and complicated questions of rule, precedent, and custom, which an excited meeting could not possibly settle. Faults and recriminations were found on both sides, disturbances were plentiful, and even personal violence threatened, the uproar being in full swing when at 12.20 the chairman, Mr. Tuckett, sen., left the chair owing to the lateness of the hour. Mr. C. D. Walther then took the chair, and the Mechanic’s Institution rivalled Donnybrook Fair, for Mr. Walther was the trustee who had stood out against the decision of the members upon the £600 loan to the Asylum Society. After further efforts to proceed with business Mr. C. J. Forward tried in vain to move an adjournment, but as nothing could be done the Committee left the platform and the meeting broke up in great disorder, no decision having been obtained.

In this plight the Committee were again forced to take into consideration, on their own responsibility, the question of arbitration, and at length agreed to the method of settling the dispute as preferable to the open strife which was damaging the best interests of the Society, some giving it as a matter of right, others conceding it as a matter of policy; and by mutual consent the arbitrators of the Asylum Society Newberry, Smith, and Cowar might thus have been in a position in which the sister Society was placed, but for various reasons assigned by them, they declined to act. Matters had got to such a heated state that the position of arbitrator was an exceedingly unthankful one, especially when many of the members of the one Society were also members of the other, and the position, at first possible and honourable in relation to both sides, had become impossible through the heat engendered by friction, and the Committee were again thrown upon their own responsibility. The only course now left open was a fresh election, and that was soon decided upon. Papers were issued, and on Wednesday, July 20, 1853, Mr. J. Jeffrey was again declared duly elected with a majority of 120, the numbers being, J. Jeffrey 486, J. England 366.

Although the question was then decisively settled, the irritability and strong party feeling that had been aroused did not easily subside, and it was some time before tranquility took the place of strife in the various workshops of the trade where the question was debated pro. and con. again and again. Mr. England however immediately handed over the documents in his possession, and the various accounts having been audited, were found correct in every respect.

Under the new secretary—who had been very active in the service of both Societies for many years, and who was one of the sub-committee appointed by the Pension Society to report on the best means of establishing an Asylum Society—the machinery of both organisations worked fairly well. Immediate steps were taken to revise and amend the rules of the Pension Society, bringing them into closer uniformity with the provisions of the act under which the Society desired enrolment. This was by no means an easy task, the dictatorial mandates of Mr. Tidd Pratt were imperative, but while he seemed to complain of the lack of intelligence on the part of the Committee and insisted upon the act being fully understood by them, his own perceptions of the full intent and purposes of the act were evidently blurred by ignorance or difficulty, and the Committee after repeated efforts to frame such rules as should be acceptable to him, and yet satisfy the subscribers, had to complain to the latter in the Quarterly Circular, October, 1853, after a delay of over two years: “The Committee rather fancy themselves to have been somewhat extensively bamboozled by Mr. Tidd Pratt in their attempt to have the rules enrolled. At one time he would strike his pen through certain rules (or parts of rules) and on the next occasion of his being waited on he would despotically insert the very words which he (or his clerk) had previously struck out. Therefore members must not suppose that the delay is chargeable to the Committee.” By 1856 the last difficulties were got over, and at the Annual Meeting, April 29, when Mr. George Cruikshank took the chair, the altered rules were put and carried.

Early in 1855 death deprived both Societies of the services of their highly respected treasurer, James Smith, junr., Esq., but Mr. John Young McFarlane accepted the office. He had long been a good friend to both Societies and was the first subscriber to the Asylum Society, obtaining thereby the first receipt issued for his ten guineas donation.

Mr. Richard Stagg, whose portrait is given with this number, was for many years a committee man of the Pension Society and one of the employer trustees of the Asylum Society from the commencement.