

THE ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION
FOR GIRLS

A DESCRIPTION OF THE
SENIOR SCHOOL AT
RICKMANSWORTH PARK

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THE STATUE OF THE CHEVALIER BARTHOLOMEW RUPINI,
Founder of the School in 1788,
on the East Wall of the School Chapel.

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THE CLOCK TOWER FLOODLIT.

The Royal Masonic Institution for Girls



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Grand Patroness :
HER MAJESTY QUEEN MARY.

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HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUKE OF CONNAUGHT & STRATHEARN,
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THE SCHOOL BADGE,

from the carving on the Entrance Gate.

(The Latin words are the Vulgate version of the text . . . "That our daughter may be as the polished corners of the Temple").

Head Mistress :

Miss B. J. DEAN, B.A. (1916).

Matron :

Miss F. MASON (1916-1935).

Miss D. LANE (1935).

IN 1934 THE SENIOR SCHOOL MOVED FROM ITS OLD HOME at Clapham Junction to the new premises in Rickmansworth Park, and it may be now of interest to give some rather fuller description of the New School under the new conditions than has hitherto been possible. It is, however, first desirable to set out once more the reasons which led the Committee to contemplate and eventually to carry out this very considerable undertaking.

The Institution was originally founded in 1788 and the first School was at Somers Place East, close to the present site of St. Pancras Station. There it remained for some seven years only, when having outgrown the accommodation, it was, in 1795, removed to St. George's Fields.

At St. George's Fields, the School remained and flourished for over 55 years until, in the year 1851, the demands upon the accommodation had become so great that the building at St. George's Fields was no longer adequate, and land was purchased near Wandsworth Common (opposite Clapham Junction), where a New School was built, and dedicated in 1852.

In those days, Clapham Junction was a very different place to Clapham Junction as we know it now. It is described in a contemporary Minute Book of the Institution (1851) as "A salubrious spot, closely adjacent to the Metropolis" and the site, which is to-day bounded upon one side and part of a second side by the Southern Railway, became, in the course of years, not altogether ideal for a large school. Moreover, possibilities of expansion were non-existent.

The whole site occupied an area of only $4\frac{1}{2}$ acres. The only available playing space for the children consisted of asphalt courts, while the Infirmary was not of a sufficient size to deal with any large epidemic. It



THE SANATORIUM.

was only in consequence of the efficiency of the medical and nursing staffs that real trouble in this latter respect was avoided while we were there.

Finally, there was in existence a waiting list of over 100 girls, who, having already been declared selected to the benefits of the Institution, with a view to their admission, could not be received into the School, owing to lack of accommodation.

With all these things in mind, the Committee inaugurated a Building Fund in 1923 and, after some years of preparation and of building up of funds, the Foundation Stone of the New School at Rickmansworth Park was laid by H.R.H. The Duke of Connaught, M.W. Grand Master, on July 16th, 1930, on a spot which is now at the South Entrance of the classrooms, where the Stone may be seen in position.

The School Buildings as a whole are situated in a Park of some 280 acres,

containing beautiful trees of every description, of which nearly 100 acres are leased, with Loudwater Farm, to a neighbouring farmer.

The Chess runs in the valley below, and in addition to three playing fields on the upper plateau on which the School itself stands, there are three playing fields on the lower ground to the east of the buildings, which can be seen from the roadway passing on that side.

The new Senior School has been built to the design of Messrs. Deaman and Son, Architects, of Brighton, upon contract with Messrs. Walter Lawrence, Mr. Arthur Boxall acting as Quantity Surveyor.

The various groups of buildings are planned around the direct approach from Chorley Wood Road to the Executive Building; the School Buildings, and School Houses lying to the south, with tennis courts, sports pavilion and playing fields beyond.



EXECUTIVE BUILDINGS, CLOCK TOWER AND ASSEMBLY HALL.

Southwards of the classrooms group of buildings, and encircling the large semi-circular "Garth," approximately five acres in area, are grouped the eight School Houses. Each House provides accommodation for fifty children and attendant staff, with two playrooms, staff sitting rooms, prefects' studies and cloakrooms on the ground floor, and four dormitories, staff bedrooms and bathrooms on the first floor.

All the School Houses are connected by a covered way, which is linked at the east and west ends to the main classrooms corridor, thus providing inter-communication, under cover at all times, between the main buildings. An underground conduit connects all the school houses as well as the remaining buildings, and contains the whole of the hot and cold water supplies, heating pipes, electric and gas mains, all of which are accessible without unnecessary disturbance.

All of the eighteen classrooms are planned at one level, facing south, in a



THE CHAPEL AND CLOCK TOWER.



THE CHAPEL.

single range along the north side of the semi-circular Garth. The corridor from east to west, which gives access to the classrooms and to the south end of the Assembly Hall, has a total length of 630 feet, with cloakroom accommodation at each end. Above the classrooms are the Science Laboratories and Art Rooms.

On entering by the Main Entrance, through wrought iron gates, beautifully designed with Masonic symbols and with a centre panel of the symbolical pelican and its young, one passes the porter's lodge on the left and a beautiful elm avenue, the public footpath from the station, on the right.

In front are the Main Executive Offices, where are the Committee rooms, dining rooms and the rooms allocated to office accommodation for the headmistress and matron, together with the kitchens, larders, laundry and service rooms.



WORK.

The boiler house is situated on the east side of the Executive Buildings, below the laundry, and both are separated from these buildings by the service court, while they can be reached from the road on the east side of the grounds. From here may be seen the kitchen garden, which is placed in the valley below, in a south-easterly direction, and is protected by surrounding brick walls on three sides.

On the left is the Sanatorium which has been extended so that, as far as possible, each room is provided with a south aspect, and so that various infections which may arise from time to time may be segregated for separate treatment. It contains an operating theatre, surgery, and accommodation for fifty patients with the necessary isolation wards.

On the right is the Chapel, possibly one of the most beautiful school chapels in existence. This is built with a barrel-vaulted ceiling with



PLAY.

brick-arched ribs and low grained aisles, and provides accommodation for a congregation of 500 persons.

The Reredos is the gift of the Architect, Bro. J. L. Denman, and shows, above, the central figure of the Good Shepherd and the Seven Gifts of the Spirit; while on the left-hand side is St. Nicholas, the Patron Saint of Children, and on the right St. Alban, the Patron Saint of the Diocese in which the School is situated. Further, on the left and right are symbolical designs which speak for themselves.

The Organ (by Messrs. J. Rothwell) was given by W. Bro. T. Harry Hewlett, P.G.D., Patron of the Institution, at the time of the 1934 Festival, when he was chairman of the Festival Committee of the Province of East Lancashire (the Chairman's Province).

The four great Panel Frescoes above the arches represent respectively :—

The Sermon on the Mount.
The Gathering of the Children.
The Adoration of the Magi.
The Ascension.

They were designed and painted by Mr. Louis Ginnett, R.O.I., and given by Bros. Sir Walter Lawrence, F. H. Horton and E. H. Blankley (2).

The twelve Stalls at the West End were presented by :—

Bro. John F. Cleaves,
Prov. Prior of the Berks & Oxon
Preceptory of Knights Templars.



A GLIMPSE ALONG THE CLOISTERS.



THE CLOCK TOWER.

Bro. S. Denman,
Senior Partner in the Firm of Messrs. Denman & Son.
Bro. H. G. Patrick,
Cashier of the Institution.
Mr. Arthur Boxall,
Quantity Surveyor.
Mr. R. C. Notcutt,
who laid out the grounds and playing fields;

and the following Contractors who were concerned in the building :—

Messrs. Ames & Finnis
Bro. G. Asserati (Messrs. G. Asserati).
Bros. Lowe (Korkoid Decorative Floors).
Mr. Hollis (Messrs. Hollis, Bros. & Co. Ltd.)
Sir Valentine Crittall (The Crittall Manufacturing Co. Ltd.)
Bro. Sam Walker (Messrs. James Walker Ltd.)
Bro. Alfred Pinion (Messrs. Roberts, Adlard & Co. Ltd.)



THE GYMNASIUM.

Upon the Lectern rests the School Bible, the gift of Bro. E. G. Bridge, Assistant Cashier in the Office of the Institution, as a memento of his mother's one-hundredth birthday.

The Clergy Stalls were given by The Royal Brunswick Lodge, No. 732, and the two windows on either side of the Chancel by Bro. Trevor Matthews and Miss Edith Matthews, in memory of their Father, Bro. J. H. Matthews, who was for 47 years a Member of the House Committee.

The Cross and Candlesticks over the Altar were given by the Head Mistress, Matron, and senior members of the staff; the Chalice and Paten by Bro. Lord Harris; and the remaining Altar Vessels, which are the work of Omar Ramsden, by the "Old Girls Association." Other gifts have been made by members of the staff and by old pupils; and in particular a carved oak Chair for use in the Chancel was presented by Miss Mason, Matron

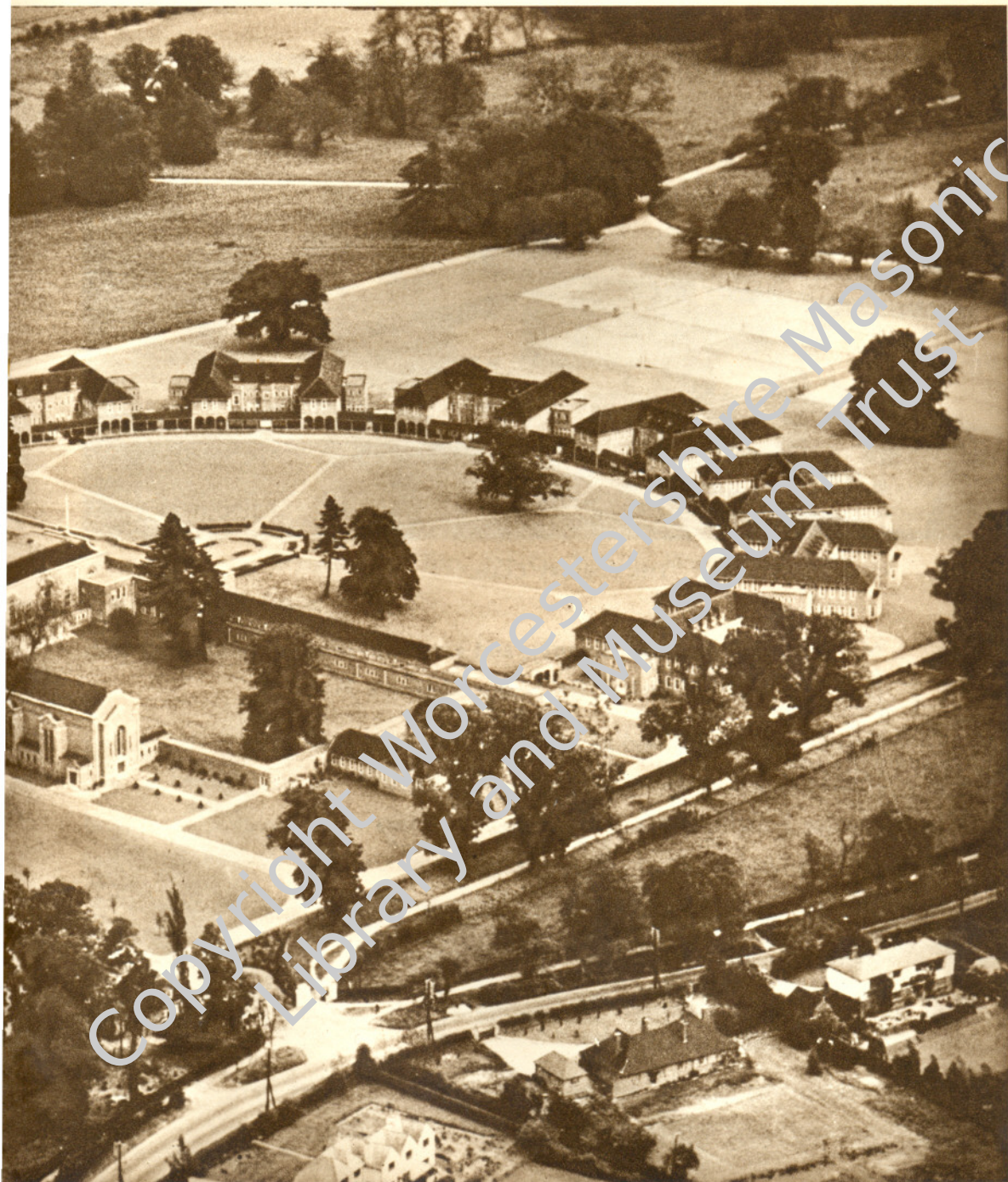


THE DRAWING CLASS.

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AERIAL VIEW SHOWING 1



FULL RANGE OF BUILDINGS.



THE COOKERY CLASS.

of the School from 1915 to 1935, and a carved Footstool in keeping with the Chair by Miss Mackay, the Senior Matron's Assistant,

Beyond the Chapel and south of the Executive Buildings is the Dining Hall (which measures 100 feet by 48 feet), with plaques painted by Mr. Charles Knight, R.W.S., illustrating the fruits and various animals and produce used for food. These panels lighten the effect of the whole, and give the Dining Hall a dignity and lightness which is very effective.

In this Hall are hung paintings of the Founder of the Institution, Bartholomew Ruspini, and of other personalities noteworthy in the history of the School.

Between the Chapel and the Dining Hall, and on the right of the main entrance is the Tower, in which is housed the Library.

On the landing leading to the Library, is a stained glass window, sym-

bolizing the work of the Institution, the gift of Mr. Louis Ginnett, R.O.T., who designed the new stained glass both here and in the Chapel, and who is responsible for the Chapel Frescoes (already mentioned) as well as the painted panels in the Assembly Hall, which is described below.

Under the tower is the approach to the Assembly Hall, which measures 120 feet long and 58 feet wide (excluding the platform at the north end), and is provided with a gallery at the south end.

On the proscenium on the platform is the School Crest, showing the two Pillars of the Temple, the Mosaic Pavement and Smooth Ashlar enclosed in a Pentagram, the Latin Motto which surrounds the margin, "Circumornatae ut Similitudo Templi," being the Vulgate reading of the text, "That our Daughters may be as the polished corners of the Temple." This crest was designed by Bro. Sir G. Woods Wollaston, K.C.V.O., Garter King at Arms.



THE CLASSROOMS AND SOUTH ENTRANCE.

The windows lighting the Assembly Hall on the east and west sides are filled partly with the old stained glass, removed from Clapham, and partly with new, showing the Arms of all the Masonic Provinces, and many of the Districts and Lodges, presented by these Provinces, Districts and Lodges themselves. The middle window on the right shows the Royal Arms, the Arms of the United Grand Lodge of England, of His Royal Highness The Duke of Connaught, Grand Master, the late Pro. Grand Master (Lord Amphill), and the late Deputy Grand Master (Lord Cornwallis); Their Royal Highnesses The Prince of Wales (now King Edward VIII), The Duke of York and Prince Arthur of Connaught; while other Arms shown in this window are those of The Rt. Hon. The Earl of Donoughmore, The Rt. Hon. The Earl of Derby, The Rt. Hon. The Earl of Harewood, and of Supreme Grand Chapter, the Supreme Council of the Thirty-Third Degree, Grand Mark Lodge and Grand Priory. Between the windows,



A DORMITORY IN RUSPINI HOUSE.



THE LAUNDRY.

on either side of the Hall, are plaques symbolizing the twelve Months of the Year, and on the north and south wall are four plaques symbolizing the four Elements.

On either side of the Assembly Hall runs a corridor linking the classrooms corridor to the Tower Entrance, and giving access to the Hall itself by four doorways. The windows to these corridors are glazed with stained-glass illustrations from the poems of Shakespeare and Tennyson, which were the gift of the Members of the House Committee in 1891, and which have been brought from the Alexandra Centenary Hall at Clapham.

Adjoining the Assembly Hall on the east and west sides are two quadrangles; the one on the left being known as the "Chapel Quadrangle," and the one on the right as the "Dining Hall Quadrangle."

On the west of the Chapel Quadrangle are the two Music Rooms, which



THE CHEMISTRY LABORATORY.

provide 40 separate compartments for music practice, whilst the Swimming Pool and Gymnasium are situated similarly on the east side of the Dining Hall Quadrangle.

Passing through the Assembly Hall, still towards the south, one comes to the classrooms corridor. It is 630 feet long, having at either end a circular stained glass window designed by D. & M. Jarrett, and has on its southern side 22 classrooms, all facing south and looking out on the large semi-circular space already referred to as the "Garth" and facing which, on the south side, in a wide semi-circle, are the eight houses, in which the children are housed. These houses are known by the names of the great Patrons of Masonry and of the Institution :—

"RUSPINI" HOUSE, in memory of the Founder of the School.

"CUMBERLAND" HOUSE, in memory of H.R.H. the Duke of Cumberland, the first Patron of the Institution.

- “ ZETLAND ” HOUSE, in memory of The Rt. Hon. The Earl of Zetland, president of the Institution, 1844-1870.
- “ MOIRA ” HOUSE, in memory of The Rt. Hon. The Earl of Moira, acting G.M. of the “ Moderns ” Grand Lodge 1790-1813.
- “ CONNAUGHT ” HOUSE, in honour of The M.W. The Grand Master, President of the Institution.
- “ SUSSEX ” HOUSE, in memory of H.R.H. The Duke of Sussex, President of the Institution, 1815-1843.
- “ ALEXANDRA ” HOUSE, in memory of H.M. Queen Alexandra, died Patroness of the Institution.
- “ ATHOLL ” HOUSE, in memory of His Grace The Duke of Atholl, Grand Master of the Antient Grand Lodge 1771-1774.

Each house contains four dormitories, accommodating either 12 or 13 children in each (a total of 50), and 2 common rooms on the ground floor, together with baths, washing accommodation, prefects' rooms and, of



THE SWIMMING BATH.

course, accommodation for the assistant mistresses and assistant matrons who are concerned with the organisation.

Beyond the houses and on the south side, are asphalt spaces upon which the children may play on wet days, and again further to the south the tennis courts, and beyond them the playing fields.

Roads pass along each side of the buildings, finally joining each other in the south and leaving the School grounds by the South Gate, near to which are the cottages which have been erected for the outside male staff, who are concerned with engineering and boiler work or with the estate management.

The School was opened by Her Majesty The Queen on the 27th June, 1934, in the presence of some 6,000 Brethren and Ladies.

Such is some description, however inadequate, of the Senior School at



SOME OF THE SCHOOL HOUSES.



TENNIS COURTS AT THE BACK OF THE SCHOOL HOUSES.

Rickmansworth to-day. It should, however, never be forgotten by those who see it that it is only part of the work of the Institution.

There is also a Junior School at Weybridge which accommodates 120 little girls between the ages of 4 and 12 before they come to the Senior School itself, and apart from these two schools, there are some 900 children who are being Out-Educated at various approved schools in England and abroad, by grants from the General Committee.

In these cases of Out-Education, Almoners are appointed by the Father's Lodge, who in each case not only disburse the grant which has been made, but, in nearly every case, are able to help and advise the Mother or Guardian of the children in case of need, and who often become the best friend that the family could have.

There are also grants which can be made, and are made, for further



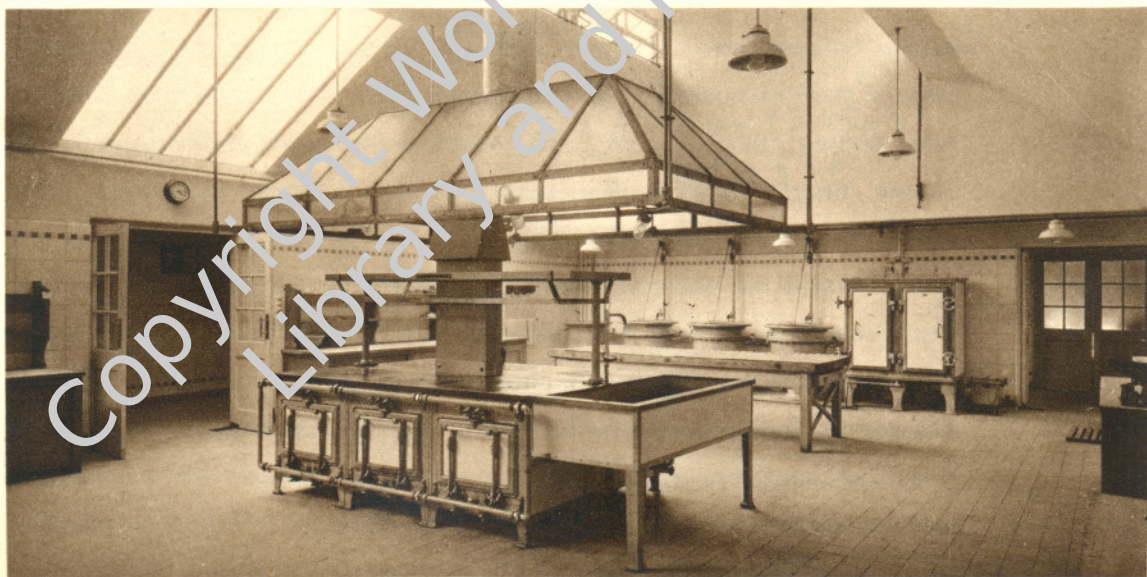
THE DINING HALL.

education, technical or otherwise, when the school life is over ; and there are even scholarships which enable those exceptionally brilliant children who can take advantage of such a grant to proceed to a University or a University College, with the certainty of a real career before them when their college days are over.

All this work naturally requires a great deal of money if it is to be properly carried out, and it is estimated that the cost of the work of the Institution in years to come and now that the new Senior School is open is likely to amount to £100,000 or £110,000 a year. When it is remembered that this sum provides for the education and, in most cases, for the maintenance of nearly 1400 girls, together with all overhead charges, and for the cost, not only of disbursing, but also of collecting the money which is required, it does not seem so large a sum as it appears at first sight. The assured income of the Institution, available from invested capital amounts only to

£16,000. For the remainder, the Committee has to depend entirely upon the annual Festival, which takes place in May of each year.

So far, the faith which the Committee has shown in the Craft has been most amply justified and it is, perhaps, sufficient to mention, in this connection, that the Estate at Rickmansworth has been purchased, the School built, and all the necessary equipment provided, out of the surplus of income over expenditure in the last twelve years. No special appeal has been made to the Craft; although, of course, the great success of recent Festivals and particularly of the Festival in 1927, over which His Majesty The King, as Prince of Wales, presided, and that of the 1934 Festival presided over by The Rt. Hon. The Earl of Derby, Prov. G.M. for the Eastern Division of Lancashire, has been very largely due to the fact that all who helped in those great lists, knew of the position and of the absolute necessity for meeting the cost of the removal and rebuilding of the Senior School.

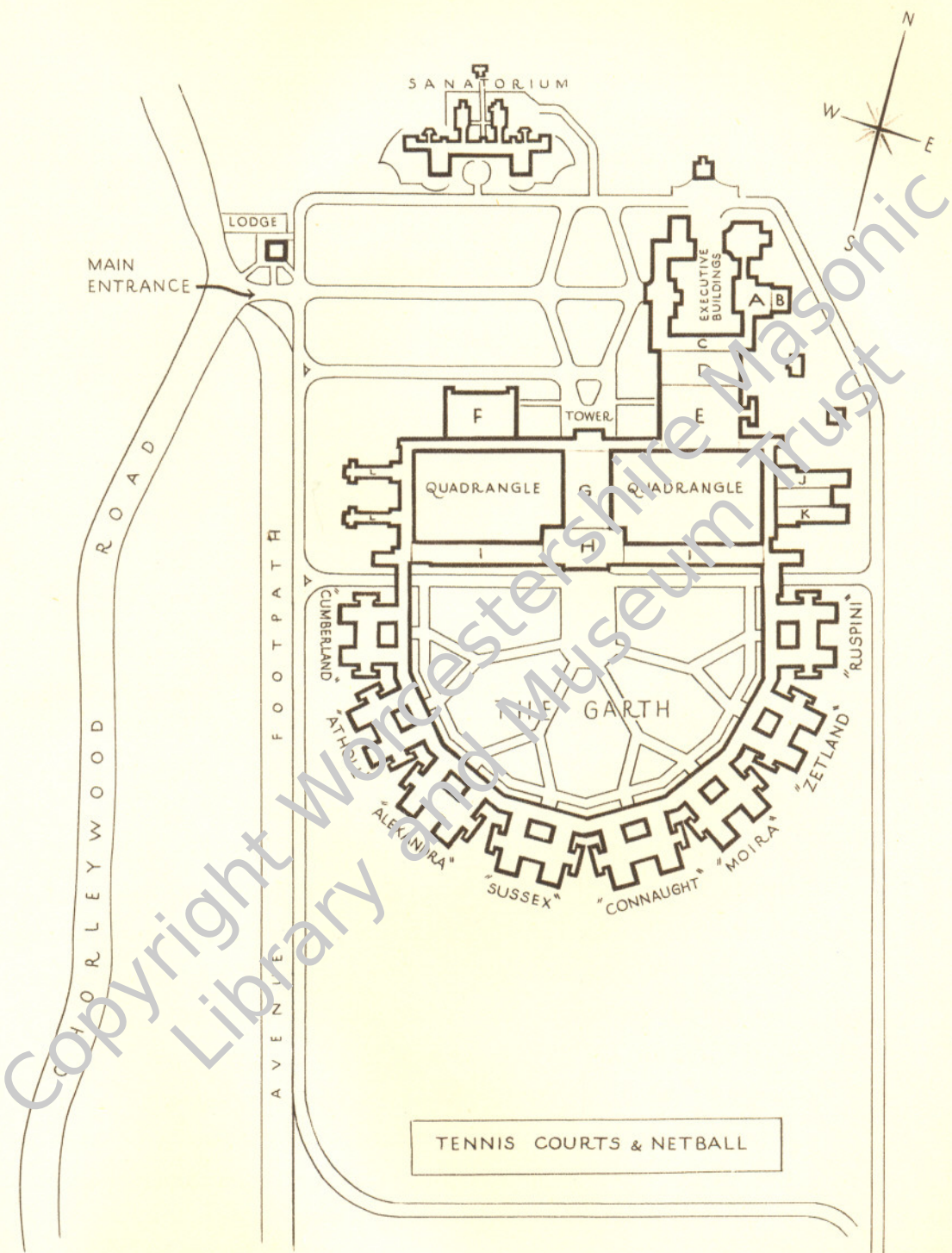


THE KITCHEN.



THE HANDICRAFT ROOM.

In conclusion, you are asked to remember that the work of the Institution is a very necessary work which it is the duty, as well as the privilege, of every Freemason to assist. In doing so, he carries out the obligation which he has entered into and which otherwise he has neither the opportunity nor the power to perform, and he is helping to give a chance to children, who, without the help of the Craft, must face the future wholly unprepared. At the Albert Hall Festival in 1927, to which reference has already been made, His Majesty The King, then Prince of Wales, in the course of his speech, stated that there was no better work to which men could set their hands than "the helping of children to help themselves." This is the work of the Institution—not to give alms or charity, but to put into the hands of these children, otherwise so helpless, a weapon—the weapon of education—with which they can fight for themselves, and, armed with which, they can go out into the World to take that position which their Fathers would have given them, had they been spared to do so.



MAIN ENTRANCE

ROAD

FORLEY WOOD

FOOTPATH

SANATORIUM

LODGE

EXECUTIVE BUILDINGS

TOWER

QUADRANGLE

QUADRANGLE

THE GARTH

TENNIS COURTS & NETBALL



- | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| A LAUNDRY | E DINING HALL | I CLASSROOMS |
| B BOILER HOUSE | F CHAPEL | J SWIMMING BATH |
| C LARDERS | G ASSEMBLY HALL | K GYMNASIUM |
| D KITCHENS & SCULLERY | H COMMON ROOMS | L MUSIC ROOMS |

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BRO. B. MARR JOHNSON, P.G.D., Patron.

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