



**The Royal Liverpool
Seamen's Orphan
Institution**

**A Century of Progress
1869 - 1969**






Photo: Anthony Buckley

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother



CLARENCE HOUSE
S.W. 1

The Royal Liverpool Seamen's Orphan Institution

In this, the hundredth year since its foundation,
I send my best wishes to everyone connected with the
Royal Liverpool Seamen's Orphan Institution.

I have been Patron for more than a quarter of this
period and I know how much the Institution means to
all those who have set out from it on their careers
and how important it is for the future that its good
work should continue.

ELIZABETH R
Patron

May, 1969.



Mr. G. Gordon Beazley, T.D. President

Preface

This history of The Royal Liverpool Seamen's Orphan Institution written to mark our centenary tells the story of how the Institution came to be established in 1868 and gives some account of the work accomplished over the past 100 years of ever-changing social and economic conditions.

It records how the objects of the founders have been faithfully pursued by those who voluntarily assumed the responsibility for the administration of an institution founded for the welfare of children of seafaring men, who died in the course of service at sea.

The institution has helped very many families and has provided education for the children, thus enabling them to take their place in the world as responsible citizens.

I should like to thank all those who have given such generous financial help in the past. This is still needed. For despite the benefits derived from the Welfare State in which we now live practical experience has shown that there exists a very real need for the work of The Royal Liverpool Seamen's Orphan Institution to continue and indeed expand. As our first century draws to a close, we look back with thankfulness for those things we have been able to do and are confident that we shall be able to progress yet further as our second century opens before us.

President



Mr. James Beazley, First Chairman of the Executive Committee 1869-1887, Hon. Treasurer 1871-1887



Photo: F. Leonard Jackson

The Royal Liverpool Seamen's Orphan Institution, Newsham Park

BEGINNINGS

One hundred years ago, on December 16, 1868, the first move was made to interest the people of Liverpool in the possibility of the establishment of an Institution where the orphan children of seamen would be cared for. The sponsors of the project comprised a group of shipowners and merchants who for some time had been concerned how best to help the widows and families of Merseyside men lost at sea by drowning or who had died as the result of an accident or through natural causes.

It was a problem growing more urgent year by year as the volume of shipping rapidly increased and Liverpool began to emerge as one of Britain's major ports. The tremendous business was vividly described by Sir William B. Forwood in his "Recollections of a Busy Life". In a reference to the shipping scene he wrote:—

"In the 1860's the great trades of Liverpool were those carried on with America, Australia, Calcutta and the West Coast (of South America). The clipper ships belonging to James Baines & Co., H. T. Wilson & Co. were renowned for their fast passages to Melbourne while the East India and West coast ships of James Beazley & Co., Imrie and Tomlinson, McDiarmid and Greenshields and the Brocklebanks were justly

celebrated for their smartness and sea-going qualities.

"Charles MacIver ruled over the destinies of the Cunard Company . . . William Inman was building up the fortunes of the Inman Line . . . the Bibbys and James Moss practically controlled the Mediterranean trade . . . the Allans were forcing their way to the front. Mr. Ismay was establishing the White Star Line, Mr. Alfred Holt was doing pioneer work in the India trade with some small steamers with single engines. These he sold and went into the China trade in which he has built up a great concern. The Harrisons were sailing ship owners but they also had a line of small steamers trading to Charente. They afterwards started steamers to the Brazils and Calcutta.

"Among the most active merchants of Liverpool were T. & J. Brocklebank, Finlay Campbell & Co., Baring Brothers, Brown Shipley & Co., Malcolmson & Co., Charles Saunders, William Moon & Co., Ogilvy Gillanders & Co., T. & W. Earle & Co., J. K. Gilliat, J. H. Schroeder, Rankin and Gilmour . . ."

These were the pioneer shipowners and merchants upon whose vision and unceasing industry was founded Liverpool's commercial

greatness. Their names included many who despite incessant calls of business found time to give their services in helping the less fortunate, the sick and destitute for whom at that time there was no Welfare State to afford protection. They felt that no section of the community was more deserving of help than the widows and fatherless children of seamen and decided that the time had come for definite action.

To this end the general public were invited to attend a meeting to be held at the Mercantile Marine Service Association rooms in Water Street on December 16, 1868 when they would be told of the plan to establish an Institution, why it was considered necessary and what would be involved in the way of money. The meeting was well attended and ended by the adoption of a resolution proposed by Mr. Ralph Brocklebank and Mr. Bryce Allan, both leading shipowners and philanthropists.

Moral Obligation

The Resolution read:— "That this meeting being deeply impressed with the moral obligation resting upon the shipowners of this great port to provide for the protection and education of the Mercantile Marine orphan children resolves that an establishment for feeding, clothing and educating the fatherless children of seamen be brought before the merchants, shipowners and general public of Liverpool for support."

"Let us then be up and doing on behalf of the little ones thus left to our care as a community by those of our fellow-citizens through whose lives of hardship and toil we gain so much and they so little—too little, at least, to ensure for them any adequate provision for the hour of their families utmost need.

"This Appeal is made not only to shipowners and to all those who are directly and indirectly obviously benefited by shipping, but also to the public at large, upon whom surely some responsibility must rest. If but a tithe of those who depend upon the sailor for very many of the necessities and for still more of the luxuries of life which they enjoy—to say nothing of the great number of persons who owe their entire position in life to his labours and risks—will recognise

the moral obligations they are under—Liverpool will not be long without a 'Seamen's Orphan Institution'.

"Some will yet, doubtless, say that existing Institutions are very numerous and but ill-supported, and that they have to struggle for their very life. Be it so. We still ask in confidence of the public to whom we appeal: 'What, say, what are these among so many?' These struggling and most admirable Institutions are full to overflowing of rescued innocents, and so are our streets and courts and alleys full to overflowing of perishing innocents! Can any Christian man conscientiously say that whilst so vast and so urgent a work remains to be done, he can fairly shelter himself from any share in it by an appeal to the wholly insufficient efforts of the past?

Temporary Home

"It is proposed, in the first instance, to rent a roomy house in a suitable locality as a temporary Home. 'A Shipowner' of this port has promised £500 towards a 'Building Fund', provided nine others will each contribute a like sum.

"A blank form is annexed which you are respectfully urged to fill up and return to Mr. Aspinall. So soon as these forms are returned a meeting will be called and a committee elected from amongst the friends of the Institution."

We are,

Your Obedient Servants.

R. Brocklebank	William Inman
James Beazley	David MacIver
John Farnworth	J. Aspinall Tobin
Clark Aspinall	Geo. Henry Horsfall
Alexander Balfour	C. H. E. Judkins
Bryce Allan	H. J. Ward

Present at the meeting was Mr. James Beazley, another leading shipowner and a member of the Mersey Dock Board but who in previous years had been closely identified with the formation in 1857 of the Mercantile Marine Service Association, the establishment of the schoolship *Conway* and the setting up of the training ship *Indefatigable* and the reformation training



Photo: Courtesy Mersey Docks & Harbour Board

Mr. Ralph Brocklebank, First President 1869-1892

The Royal Liverpool Seamen's Orphan Institution

ship *Akbar*—all three being stationed at the south end of the river off Birkenhead.

His interest and zeal in charitable causes was thus well known and it was not surprising that he should have been invited to take over the chairmanship of the executive committee formed to further the plan to establish an orphanage for seamen's children.

Untiring Advocate

From the outset James Beazley worked untiringly in advocating the need for the Institution. Nor did his championship stop short at pleading. On February 17, 1869, from his home at Fern Hill, Claughton, Birkenhead, he sent a personal letter to the principal shipowners in Liverpool. It read:—

Fern Hill,
February 17th, 1869.

My Dear Sir,

I have always found it well in begging to have an excuse for urging a request. To start the subscription for the proposed "Seamen's Orphan Asylum" I am willing to give the sum of £500; provided nine others will give the same amount each, before June 30th next.

This would give £5,000 at once, which I propose should be specially held towards a building fund, and I think if that sum was actually in hand, and a suitable advertisement put out "To Landowners" we should stand a good chance of having a site presented to us, or we might ask the Dock Board or the Corporation to give us some land.

As I particularly wish that my name do not appear before the public as making the foregoing offer let it be from a "Shipowner". When you have raised the money, then put my name amongst the others. I don't doubt that you will raise the £5,000 if you set to work with the zeal and enthusiasm you possess on the subject.

Believe me,

Yours faithfully,
James Beazley.

The response to this letter was as satisfactory as it was immediate. The money thus realised was supplemented by donations received as the result of a more general public appeal issued by the committee on March 27. This appeal, after referring to the agreement reached at the public meeting on December 16 to found an Institution, went on:—

"The number of seamen at sea in British merchant vessels in the year 1866 was 196,371. No fewer than 4,866 deaths were recorded during the year—2,390 of these being by drowning.

"Statistics show us that deceased married sailors leave on an average three children, and these with the widow are in the great majority of cases almost destitute, and oftentimes absolutely so. Surely it can be little less than a reproach to this great port that up to the present time no such special Orphan's Home as the one now in the course of formation has had any existence in our midst.

Great Demand

"It is quite true that our Liverpool charities are very numerous and very excellent. It is equally true that we have hospitals and asylums for poor and parentless boys and girls, as well as numberless other agencies for the relief of the destitute children of the community. But, alas! it is also but too plain and palpable to us all that the demand for such manifest necessities is very far indeed in excess of the supply, and as a consequence thousands, literally thousands, of 'tender plants' are 'destroyed for lack of knowledge'—are physically, morally, and religiously degenerating and dying down in our streets.

"If this be so—and who can gainsay what is here stated?—may we not safely assert that no class of men contribute more largely to swell the numbers of the 'fatherless children and widows in their affliction' than our gallant sailors—'they that go down to the sea in ships, that do business in great waters'."

Within a few months the financial position was such that the general committee, which had been set up as promised in the Public Appeal, was able to look round for a suitable "temporary home". Their search led them to

Duke Street at that time a residential thoroughfare where number 128, a large three-storeyed house in its own grounds, was available. Inspection showed that it was ideal for the project and plans were drawn up for the conversion work involved—dormitories, class rooms, kitchens and the necessary accommodation for the staff.

There was no delay. Work was put in hand, furniture and fittings ordered and by the end of April it was possible to envisage an opening date. On August 9, 1869 the Liverpool Seamen's Orphan Institution came into being and the first group of children passed through its doors.

By the end of the year there were 60 of them in residence, 46 boys and 14 girls. For them all it must have been a strange, bewildering and lonely experience. And although they were too young to appreciate the fact it was upon their reactions to, and quick assimilation of what would be a completely new way of life that the success or failure of the Institution would largely depend. That they so quickly adapted themselves is at once a tribute to the children themselves and the kindness, care and understanding given to these little "first voyagers" by Miss McGregor the Matron and her staff and

those responsible for the operation of the Institution.

In presenting to subscribers their first report for the year ended December 31, 1869 (covering a period of nine months) the committee, even allowing for the verbal extravagances beloved of the Victorian age, could say in all sincerity "At the present time 60 children are there accommodated and under the thoroughly satisfactory and efficient Miss McGregor, the Lady Superintendent, are enjoying the unspeakable advantages of those comforts and kindnesses so essential to their happiness and contentment; and are also receiving such a thorough and sound education with moral and religious training as to fit them for their duties in after life".

From the outset the question of providing educational facilities which would equal the standards set by local educational authorities was given priority. An insight as to what this meant was given by Mr. Ralph Brocklebank, the first President of the Institution, in his address to subscribers at the annual meeting held on January 25, 1872.

"You are aware" Mr. Brocklebank said "that no children are taken in under six years of age and that they only remain until they are 14. You



Photo: Mersey Docks & Harbour Board

The port of Liverpool in the mid-19th Century was still dominated by the fast sailing packets which crowded the docks bringing in cargoes from the Americas, the Indies, Australasia and after loading sailing thence again

the committee are specially due for their praiseworthy exertions in support of the Institution. To the various clergy who have made church collections on behalf of the Institution and to other gentlemen who have given proceeds of concerts or entertainments the committee desire to tender their grateful acknowledgements."

Civic Gift

It was abundantly clear that people living on Merseyside took a special pride in the Institution and its progress. Practical evidence of this was demonstrated on April 7, 1870 when a meeting of the Liverpool Town Council approved a resolution under which a gift of 7,000 square yards of land at the north east side of Newsham Park should be given to the committee to enable them to construct a Seamen's Orphan Institution.

No time was lost in getting the project under way. Design and planning of the building was entrusted to Mr. Alfred Waterhouse a well-known architect who amongst other buildings had been responsible for the design of Manchester Town Hall, the Assize Courts, Manchester and Eaton Hall, Chester. The contract for the construction of the building was given to Messrs. Haigh & Company.

Foundation

The foundation stone was laid by Mr. Ralph Brocklebank on September 11, 1871. It was natural that much should be made of the occasion, the ceremony being attended by the Bishop of Chester (Liverpool then coming under his See), the Earl of Derby, the Mayor of Liverpool (Mr. J. G. Livingstone), the Dean of Ripon (the Rev. Hugh McNeil who for many years had been one of Liverpool's leading clerics) and leading merchants and shipowners. An appeal was made for contributions to the Building Fund with gratifying results, nearly £8,000 being received within a few months.

There were to be two more developments. One was the decision to include an infirmary in the design of the building. This was sensible and quite possibly had been prompted by an

epidemic of scarlatina and smallpox in Liverpool in 1871 which had spread to the children in the Duke Street "Temporary Home" and had resulted in three deaths.

Chapel Project

The second development was the decision by the committee to build a chapel adjacent to the Institution in order "to provide suitably for the religious instruction and devout training of the children". For this purpose the committee approached the Liverpool Corporation about the purchase of the additional land required and later were to acknowledge the "liberal spirit" in which the application had been met.

A special fund was opened for the building of the chapel, the foundation stone of which was laid down on August 1, 1873 by Mr. Charles McIver who from the outset had taken a great interest in the project having donated £1,000 towards the cost of construction.

Completion

By this time the Institution itself was nearing completion and on January 31, 1874 the children from the Temporary Home in Duke Street—63 in number—removed to their new home—accompanied by 46 "new" boys and girls. They were housed in the North Wing which on the previous day had been informally opened.

It had been an anxious and busy time for everyone—not least the children themselves who in the three months prior to the great move had assisted the staff in making "upwards of 3,000 articles of clothing".

There was however one disappointment. It had been found possible to admit only 200 children instead of the 400 envisaged when the building was designed. The main reason for this was financial. As Mr. Brocklebank said at the annual meeting held on March 27, 1874 "The orphanage at Newsham Park is built and already partially occupied. One reason that it is only partially occupied is that it is not yet perfectly completed although it is very nearly so, and I think his worship the Mayor has told you that another reason and a very cogent reason is that

we cannot fully occupy it until we receive a fuller amount of support from the public generally Shall we stand still with these 200 children or shall we not have the full complement of 400 in this Institution. Will you not help us?"

Outdoor Relief

In addition to the 200 children at the orphanage the committee were looking after 62 children on what was termed the Outdoor Relief List. This was an important aspect of the work which had been growing steadily over the years.

The decision to widen the scope of the Institution's activities in this way, was due in part to the physical limitations of accommodation in the Duke Street home coupled with the ever-increasing number of applications for assistance being received. In the first year of operation the committee had been compelled to refuse 90 "really deserving cases".

By 1871 there were 148 applications on the waiting list and to alleviate the most distressing cases the Executive Committee had decided to grant an allowance which would go some way to help a limited number of non-resident children. This allowance was fixed at 10 shillings a month, and a suit of clothes annually "conditional upon the production of a certificate that the child was attending a school in the district".

Opening Ceremony

The formal opening of the Institution took place on September 30, 1874, the ceremony being performed by the Duke of Edinburgh, the "Sailor Prince", fourth son of Queen Victoria and the Prince Consort.

Contemporary accounts record that it was a day marked by glorious weather and tremendous excitement amongst the town's-folk of Liverpool who long before the 3-30 p.m.—the time appointed for the Duke's arrival—"thronged the approaches to the building".

The Executive Committee had spared no efforts to make the opening a truly Royal occasion in which they had received enthusiastic co-operation from the shipowners in the port

and other friends. Thus the approaches to the orphanage were lined by a guard of honour consisting of some 1,500 seafaring men (masters, officers and crew ratings) from shipping companies engaged in the North Atlantic trade.

Naval Contingents

In addition there were contingents from H.M.S. *Caledonia*, the naval guard ship stationed in the Mersey, the Royal Naval Reserve, which had been founded in 1859 and the Royal Naval Artillery Volunteers under the command of Lieut. Graves. There was also present a detachment of 100 men from the 19th Regiment of Foot who, with their band, had been sent down from Chester.

Shortly after 3-30 p.m. the sound of cheering signalled the approach of the Royal party preceded by Lancers "at a sharp trot". The Duke was received at the Chapel entrance by Mr. Ralph Brocklebank, President of the Institution, who presented Mr. James Beazley, the Treasurer, and other members of the Executive Committee.

The Royal party then entered the Chapel where the Rev. Drummond Anderson, Chaplain to the Orphanage announced to the congregation "which quite filled the Chapel" that they would sing the well-known hymn for those at sea "Eternal Father Strong to Save".

The Duke then returned along the nave to the entrance, where accompanied by Mr. Charles MacIver, His Royal Highness and his entourage walked past the seamen and others who stood in line within the railings.

Public Excitement

It is recorded that the excitement became so great that the people became uncontrollable in their eagerness to obtain a view of the Duke, and, crushing underneath the barrier and through the lines of the "good-natured seamen" they almost blocked the thoroughfare which should have been kept clear for the carriages in which the Royal party had arrived.

After inspecting the Orphanage, including

the three classrooms, the Royal party and the Executive Committee returned to the dining hall for the formal opening ceremony. Here in addition to the guests had been assembled 200 children of the Orphanage. Each child was wearing a small medal presented to them by Mr. John Gibbon, a member of the Executive Committee, to commemorate the occasion.

Loyal Address

The proceedings began with the playing of the National Anthem after which the Chaplain, the Rev. Drummond Anderson read a loyal address in the course of which he said:

"Your Royal Highness needs not to be told of the dangers of the ocean, nor to be reminded of the gallant men who go down to the sea in ships for the purposes of the vast commerce of this great nation, and whilst thus engaged incur so much risk and hardship, as your own experience of sea life will suffice to call forth that sympathetic nature, the brightest and best of your inheritances from your Royal parents.

"The visit of your Royal Highness to us today—when we pray that you may be pleased to open and dedicate to its benevolent uses our beautiful and commodious Institution will be gratefully remembered as a gracious testimony of Royal sympathy with the widows and fatherless children of our seafaring population, and not alone with these, but with all who are engaged in maritime pursuits."

The President then handed the Duke the Address, and at the same time presented him with a handsomely-bound volume (the gift of a member of the committee), containing the reports from the commencement of the Institution.

Duke's Tribute

Acknowledging the Address the Duke of Edinburgh said "Gentlemen, I beg you to accept my thanks for the Address which you have presented to me on behalf of the donors and

subscribers of the Liverpool Seamen's Orphanage. I acknowledge sincerely the loyal terms in which you have spoken of Her Majesty the Queen, and the good wishes which you have expressed towards the Duchess of Edinburgh and myself.

"You, gentlemen, and those whom you represent, have indeed done a good work; your labours have been crowned with the success which they so richly deserve, and this city may well be proud of the truly noble Institution which it now possesses for the nurture and education of the children of those men to whose perilous and laborious lives so much of its wealth and prosperity is due."

Key-Stone

The President then said:— I have now, my lords, ladies and gentlemen, to express the great obligations which we all feel today to His Royal Highness for having come amongst us for the noble and benevolent purpose of opening this Institution. You have now put the key-stone to the arch of a building, which will, with God's blessing, cover the defenceless heads of 400 fatherless children of our British seamen.

"My friends, allow me to call upon today to consider the privileges which you enjoy in your pleasant homes, and to think how many of those comforts and luxuries you derive through the agency of the sailor, who brings from every clime your food, your raiment, and your luxuries.

Endowment Funds

"It is absolutely necessary that this institution should be placed in comparative safety, and free from those absorbing anxieties which societies through want of money have always to meet. I, therefore, venture to appeal to my fellow-townsmen and my fellow-labourers of all classes, to assist us with the endowment fund of £20,000, which with the annual subscriptions and other permanent revenue, will place this Institution on that solid basis which all friends of fatherless children desire.

The Duke of Edinburgh then formally declared the Institution opened.



From the beginning the Executive Committee and those responsible for the administration of the Institution spared no efforts to ensure that Christmas would be a happy and memorable occasion for the children. In this they were assisted by gifts showered by friends who took a continuing and lively interest in the work.

The Archbishop of York offered up a dedicatory prayer after which as spokesman for the children "who had no one to speak for them" he said—

"The calling, then, which our fathers have to pursue is a very dangerous one, and we are very glad to know that one sits in the chair on this occasion who understands how dangerous and how trying it is.

"We know very well that a great many of our fathers are carried off every year, and, independently of those who are lost by shipwreck, we also know that many times our fathers came home sick and suffering, and all because of the trials to which they have been exposed.

"And as we have had the misfortune to lose our fathers and mothers, we look upon this

building with great interest. It is our future home, and we are ready to bear testimony to the kind treatment we have received in it.

"We hope that this visit of your Royal Highness will direct proper attention to this place. You, as a British sailor, do not despise the orphan sons and daughters of the English sailor, and after this visit we think that the ship-owning people of Liverpool will be altogether inexcusable and unintelligible to our limited minds if they do not bestir themselves a little and give some help to this building, because it is an Institution that has now more than 200 children in it.

"We hope soon to see 400 in it, and perhaps it may yet grow larger."

YEARS OF DEVELOPMENT 1874 - 1919

"The design is and shall continue to be, to feed, clothe and educate the destitute or necessitous fatherless children or orphans (male and female) of seafaring men (including engineers, firemen etc. of steamers) and also to provide suitable buildings where the most needy may be entirely provided for."

So runs the second paragraph of the formal scheme for the registration of the Liverpool Seamen's Orphan Institution as a charity as approved by the Board of Charity Commissioners for England and Wales. As a necessary safeguard formal application had been made to the Charity Commission on October 15, 1877 by Mr. James Beazley, Treasurer, acting on behalf of the Committee and subscribers.

Driving Force

To those to whom had been entrusted the daily administration of the Institution and the welfare and education of the children there was nothing new in this definition. It had been the driving force behind their work ever since that day in 1869 when the doors of the temporary home in Duke Street had been opened to welcome the first group of children.

Their labours were made the easier in the active support they received from the Executive Committee and Lady Visitors, honorary surgeons and dentists and many friends who devoted much of their leisure time to the voluntary work they had undertaken.

Unsparring Devotion

The success of the orphanage and the happiness of the children was close to their hearts and they spared neither time nor money to ensure that all was well. Their interest was reflected in many ways. They made constant

visits to the Institution so that to the children they were not remote benefactors but very real and friendly people. As an instance every Sunday morning Mr. James Beazley came from his home in Birkenhead across the river Mersey by ferry and out to Newsham Park to attend divine service in the orphanage chapel—in those years a long and tiresome journey.

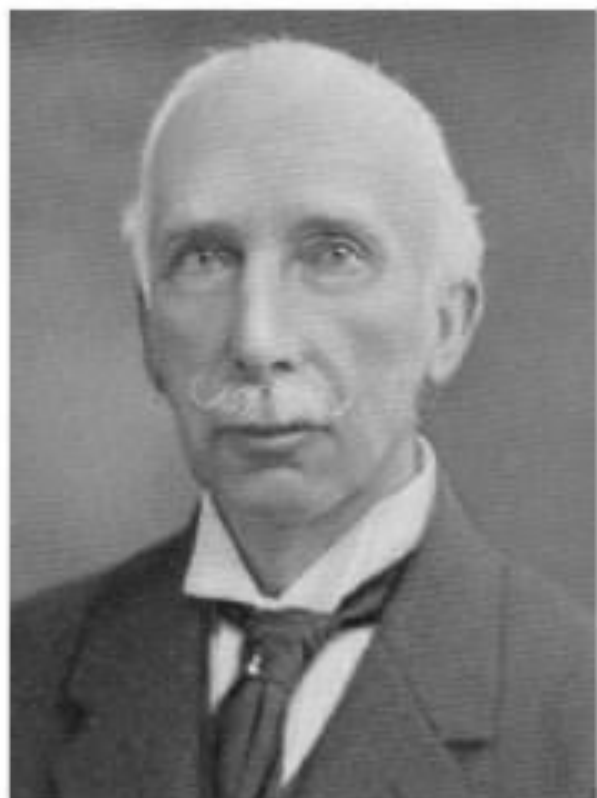
Again each year there was the donation of special prizes for school work, and special river trips in high summer and invitations to entertainments in the winter months and at Christmastide a flood of toys and gifts and decorations for the "Tree" as it came to be called.

Nor were the activities of the Executive Committee confined within the boundaries of the orphanage. From the outset it had been realised that in considering the many applications received for assistance it would at times be foolish to take children away from their homes or that differences in religious practice would preclude admission to the orphanage.

Special Assistance

In such circumstances arrangements were made for the mothers to receive special assistance for their children in the way of weekly grants of money, boots and clothing. Over the years this aspect of the Institution's activities was to increase to the extent that the number of children helped was to far exceed the number of children resident in the orphanage.

It was unfortunate that this very important feature of the work was not fully appreciated by many Liverpool shipping and commercial concerns, and indeed the general public, whose total annual subscriptions—despite appeals—seldom rose over the £1,200 mark. It may well have been that they thought of the Institution only in terms of the handsome building in Newsham



Mr. J. H. Beazley, President 1920-29



Col. Sir Geoffrey Beazley, President 1958-62



Mr. Edwin A. Beazley, Hon. Treasurer 1896-1924



Mr. David Beazley, member, Executive Committee 1902

Park and the obvious well-being of the 300 children or so who lived there, and from that deduced quite wrongly, there was no need for financial help.

Poor Support

There is little doubt that if the Institution had relied solely on public subscriptions it would not long have survived. Fortunately the generosity of the founders, which had enabled a beginning to be made, continued, as did special donations from several leading shipping companies. These benefactions were supplemented in course of time by legacies while there were always receipts from the "collecting boxes" carried in ships, the revenue from which increased particularly on the North Atlantic route as a result of the generosity of passengers.

The revenue from these various sources and wise investment by the Executive Committee enabled the Institution to avoid heavy financial weather. In addition when additional facilities or improvements to the orphanage buildings were considered necessary, friends, whose pockets were as deep as their hearts, were not found wanting.

Outstanding Example

An outstanding example of this benevolence was found in the President, Mr. Ralph Brocklebank who apart from personal donations of £5,000 defrayed the entire cost of the building of a sanatorium which was formally opened on May 3, 1879.

For the staff and children of the orphanage life followed a set pattern throughout the year—a pattern broken at times by more ceremonial events such as the annual meeting held in the Liverpool Town Hall, Prize-giving day in June and the Anniversary Service held in the orphanage Chapel each October and attended in State by the Mayor.

A great deal of importance was attached to the annual meeting providing as it did an opportunity to draw public attention to the work of the Institution. It was no formal affair to be perfunctorily disposed of in as short a time as possible but was very much a civic occasion.

Presided over by the Mayor of Liverpool

(from 1893 the Lord Mayor) the meeting was held in the Council Chamber of the Town Hall filled with donors and subscribers to the Institution and by no means least the children from the orphanage—the boys in the "sailor"-type suits, the girls in their long blue dresses fronted by crisp white pinafores.

Everything was carried out in the grand manner which marked the Victorian way of life, speeches were long and eloquent, interspersed with eulogies of the Institution's work, the sorrows of "Poor Jack" at sea, and the plight of his widow and fatherless children. There were also the inevitable homilies to the orphans who bore with it all very stoically, possibly stimulated by thoughts of the traditional orange and buns each child would receive at the end of the unending afternoon.

Special Occasions

There were other "big" occasions at the orphanage itself. Apart from Prize-Day and the Anniversary Service the Judges of the Assize (whose official "lodgings" were nearby in Newsham Park) never failed to pay a courtesy visit to the orphanage. But perhaps no event was to be so memorable as that which took place on May 12, 1886 when Queen Victoria accompanied by the Duke of Connaught and Princess Beatrice visited the Institution and from recorded accounts was genuinely impressed by what she saw.

This Royal visit was recalled by the President, Mr. Ralph Brocklebank, at the Institution's annual meeting the next year. He told the crowded Council Chamber that the Queen had made "minute enquiries" about the working of all branches of the Institution "with which she expressed the greatest satisfaction".

Royal Recognition

The President went on to say that the Queen had granted the orphanage the privilege of adding her Royal name to the list of patrons "and she bestowed upon us a substantial record of her Royal bounty (with her portrait) which she kindly sent us". He concluded "I think we are greatly indebted to the Queen for the kindness and gracious attention which she paid to the

THE ROYAL LIVERPOOL SEAMEN'S ORPHAN INSTITUTION

EVENTS OF INTEREST OVER THE PAST 100 YEARS

- 1883 December 18.** Meeting in Mercantile Marine Association Rooms, to consider expediency of establishing an institution to provide for the needs of the Orphaned children of Seafaring Men.
A promise of £200 was made by Mr. James Beazley & nine other subscribers would do likewise.
- 1888** Annual General Meeting of the Bank, Brunswick Street.
- 1888 August 8.** "Temporary Home" opened at 133 Duke Street, Liverpool.
- 1878 April 1.** Liverpool Town Council approve proposal to grant a site at Newsham Park to the Seamen's Orphan Institution.
- 1873 September 11.** Foundation stone of new building, led by Mr. Ralph Brocklebank, first President, Architect Mr. A. Waterhouse.
- 1873 August 1.** Laying Foundation Stone of Chapel by Mr. Charles McNeil who has donated £3,000 towards cost.
- 1874 January 38.** Infernal opening of North Wing of Orphanage.
- 1874 September 30.** Royal opening of the Orphanage, Newsham Park, by H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh.
- 1875 July 8.** Visit of the Sultan of Zanzibar.
- 1878 April 17.** Foundation Stone of Sanatorium laid by Mr. Ralph Brocklebank. (The Sanatorium was the gift of Mr. Brocklebank.)
- 1873 May 3.** Formal opening of Sanatorium.
- 1878 Unveiling of Portrait of Mr. Ralph Brocklebank.**
- 1880 Unveiling of Portrait of Mr. James Beazley.**
- 1886 May 12.** Visit of Her Majesty Queen Victoria, the Duke of Cornwall and Princess Beatrice. Her Majesty bestowed her patronage on the Institution.
- 1892 July.** H.R.H. The Duke of Cornwall visits Orphanage and unveils tablet "To the Memory of Mr. James Beazley."
- 1894** New workshop added to School buildings.
- 1897** Anniversary Service preached by Archbishop of York, Dr. C. McLaren.
- 1898 July.** Swimming Bath opened.
- 1901 H.M. King Edward VII—Patron of the Institution**

- 1908** Gymnasium Opened. Architect Francis H. Haines.
- 1906** Anniversary Service preached by Archbishop of York, Dr. Charles Gordon Lush.
- 1915 March.** Visit of Admiral Sir David Beatty.
- 1915** Jubilee Year of Institution (The Jubilee Fund realised £27,000.)
- 1920 December.** Dedication of War Memorial.
- 1921 March 17.** Visit of Her Majesty Queen Mary and Her Royal Highness Princess Mary.
- 1921** H.M. King George V bestows title of Royal on Institution.
- 1922** Incorporation of Institution under Royal Charter.
- 1923** Alterations and additions to the structure of the Orphanage for the purpose of modernising domestic and sanitary arrangements, and bringing the Institution up-to-date. Expenditure £23,800.
- 1924 June 20.** Death of Mr. Edwin A. Beazley, Hon. Treasurer, over 25 years.
- 1927** H.M. King George VI and H.M. Queen Elizabeth—Patrons of the Institution.
- 1938** March New block of classrooms formally opened. Cost £10,888.
- 1939** Threat of Second World War. Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Rorden offer their home at Hill Barn, Frimley, as evacuation centre for children of the Orphanage.
- 1939 September 3.** Outbreak of Second World War. School evacuated to Hill Barn. Opened September 11. Cost of erecting flats, air-raid shelters, and installing other facilities £15,800.
- 1947** Newsham Park premises requisitioned. War Damage repairs cost £15,888.
- 1949 July 25.** Annual Meeting. The chairman of the Executive Committee proposes Beazley to close Newsham Park School.
- 1949 July 27.** School closed.
- 1951** Purchase of Newsham Park premises by Ministry of Health completed. Sale realised £123,888.
- 1959** Col. Sir Geoffrey Beazley elected President.
- 1967** Mr. G. (Gordon) Beazley elected President.
- 1969** Centenary Year.



The Earl of Derby—Patron of the Institution since 1948—thus continuing an association which had been established by his grandfather the 17th Earl of Derby in 1913 and who for 35 years took a great interest in the work of the Institution.

children of our Institution speaking to them in a motherly, kind and affectionate manner".

From the outset the education of the children had been given priority—the school being conducted on church-school lines. In 1892 however as a result of the Education Act, and the opportunity thus provided for financial aid, the Executive Committee decided to apply to the Educational Department for the boys' school to be placed on the list of Public Elementary Schools in receipt of a Government Grant.

Special Grant

This application was granted and accordingly, from 1892, the boys' school was administered strictly under Government regulations including an annual visit by H.M. Inspector.

It was decided not to apply for the time being for a similar grant for the girls' school. This decision was reversed in 1898, the annual report for that year stating that in future the girls' school, like the boys', would be under the supervision of the Education Department and would receive its share of the Parliamentary Grant. Perhaps worth recording is the fact that on their first visit the Inspectors were pleased with the standard of education attained by the children.

This change did not cancel out the arrangement under which, under the auspices of the Diocese of Liverpool, the children were examined each year in religious knowledge; in addition the girls continued to be examined in needlework and knitting.

More Facilities

So far as educational facilities were concerned a carpentry shop and a shoemakers' shop had been built. On the games side there was a happy moment when it became known that the Liverpool City Council—always interested in the orphanage—had agreed that the boys could make use of the public swimming baths. This facility was much appreciated by the boys who soon proved their prowess when in 1896 competing against other elementary schools they won the Swimming Shield—a success they were to repeat in many subsequent years.

Oddly enough—and perhaps symptomatic of the Victorian age—no corresponding effort appears to have been made for the girls. They

had their own playground in the Institution in which—as a swing but seemingly for them the lighter side of life lay in diligent application to sewing and needlework to fit them for the domestic service which it was hoped the majority would enter when they left the orphanage.

New Century

The beginning of the 20th century found the Institution in good shape and heart. In the annual report for the year ended 1899 it was recorded that on December 31 there were 321 children in the orphanage while 508 children were receiving out-door relief involving a total expenditure of £3,106. Annual subscriptions reached £1,359 and donations "including ship and shore boxes, proceeds of public concerts and other entertainments" came to £5,422.

Over the 30 years since the orphanage had been founded special benefactions of £100 and upwards had totalled £42,000 while in addition the Institution had benefited from legacies amounting to £70,960. For these reasons the congratulatory atmosphere of the annual meeting held on March 29, 1900 was well justified as were the comments by the Lord Mayor (Alderman Louis S. Cohen) on the prosperity of the Institution and the universal esteem in which it was held.

Swimming Pool

For the boys and girls the momentous event of 1900 was the opening of the new swimming bath which had been installed in the orphanage grounds the entire cost having been met by friends of the Institution. Eight years later, in 1908, the orphanage buildings were extended to include a large recreation hall 75 ft. in length and 35 ft. wide. Through the generosity of Mr. Thomas Hughes, a member of the Executive Committee, the hall was equipped with gymnastic apparatus.

On December 31 of that year the retirement took place of Capt. Edwin Stubbs, R.N. who had been Secretary of the Institution since 1873. Unfortunately Capt. Stubbs did not live long to enjoy his well-earned leisure; he died on February 28, 1909.

At the annual meeting held on March 30 Sir



Mr. T. H. Naylor, President 1962-1966

William Forwood, President, paid special tribute to Capt. Stubbs. "He was connected with the Institution for the long period of 35 years," the President said, "and a very large amount of the success which has attended our efforts, and the happiness of the young people here was due to the love and sympathy and kindness with which Capt. Stubbs always brought to his duties."

In his stead Commander H. R. L. Risk, R.N. (Retd) was appointed Secretary.

The year 1912 was clouded by the tragic sinking of the liner *Titanic* on her maiden voyage. With so many Merseyside seafarer members of her crew it might have been thought that applications for relief would put a tremendous burden on the Institution's financial resources. In the event the National Relief Fund organised by the Lord Mayors of London and Liverpool took care of widowed mothers and their dependents in need of assistance.

First World War

It was inevitable that the outbreak of the First World War in August, 1914 should affect the

Institution in various ways. There were problems in educational programmes due to the masters leaving to join the armed forces, there was a loss of income as a result of no revenue being received from collecting boxes on merchant ships which were requisitioned or lost by enemy action and by a big falling off in passenger traffic on the North Atlantic. In 1913 for instance donations were received from 165 merchant ships; in 1915 the number of ships concerned had dropped to 85.

On this the annual report for 1915 commented: "Receipts from passenger steamers sailing from and to Liverpool have fallen more than 50 per cent below the usual amount, and it now becomes a question whether the Committee will be able to continue out-door relief on the same scale as here-to-fore".

Heavy Losses

This was doubly unfortunate in that as ships were lost at sea through enemy action so did applications for assistance increase. As the annual report for 1916 reported: "The year has



To increase educational facilities and enable the children to specialise, a new block of buildings, comprising domestic science room, woodwork shop and a science laboratory was opened in 1938. Cost of the building was £10,000.

been marked by the number of applications for advice on behalf of children whose fathers had fallen in battle or lost their lives through submarine attack. Such cases have been promptly relieved whenever necessary and introduced to the notice of such agencies whose special duty it is to deal with such distress."

The total number of children assisted during 1916 was 946 of whom 292 lived at the orphanage and 654 were helped in their own homes at a cost of £5,573. At the end of 1918 there were 265 children in the orphanage but the number receiving help in their own homes had risen to 773 involving the expenditure of £6,195.

It is perhaps indicative of the greater public interest shown in the work of the Institution and a greater awareness of the tremendous work of the men of the merchant service in time of war that the collections at the Anniversary Service held in the Lady Chapel each October increased enormously. In 1916 and 1917 the collections totalled over £450; the collections on Anniversary Sunday, October 27, 1918, realised £852 "much the largest sum yet received".

Jubilee Meeting

Monday, April 14, 1919 was an outstanding occasion in the history of the Institution, marking as it did the 50th annual meeting held as customary in the Town Hall and presided over by the Lord Mayor, Col. John Ritchie. The special nature of the meeting was referred to by the President, Sir William Forwood, who after briefly recalling the events which led to the founding of the Institution in 1869 went on: "Looking back, memories of many who helped to build up the Institution stand out prominently in the forefront of its history. Mr. Beazley its founder, Mr. Ralph Brocklebank its first President, Mr. Charles McIver, Mr. Bryce Allan, the Rev. Drummond Anderson, the first Chaplain, Capt. Stubbs our first Secretary, Mr. Robert Allan, for many years Chairman of the Executive Committee, Mrs. Postance our much loved Lady Superintendent, Mr. Mylie our much respected Headmaster, . . .

"I ask you to reflect upon the many thousands of young lives we have helped to bring up and made good Christian men and women and we can take pride in the distinguished and im-

portant positions which so many of our old people now occupy. There can be no higher testimony to our good work than the love our pupils bear to their old school which in the days of prosperity they never forget."

This was the last annual meeting Sir William Forwood was to address as President. After holding that high office in which he had not spared himself for 22 years he resigned. In his place was elected Mr. James H. Beazley, a son of one of the founders, and who had been Chairman of the Executive Committee for 17 years.

Notable Year

In his first speech as President at the annual meeting held on April 12, 1920 Mr. Beazley also had something to say about the Jubilee. "The year 1919" he said "was notable in our annals, first because the Institution reached its Jubilee, secondly because the number of children receiving help was the greatest since it was founded and thirdly because our receipts as well as unfortunately our expenditure—nearly £24,000—were the greatest in our history. The expenses however will be greater still this year.

"For our exceptional receipts we are indebted to many good friends and the leading steamship companies who subscribed liberally to our Jubilee Fund and to whom we now tender our grateful thanks, as well as the captains and pursers of our passenger liners who work so continuously and splendidly for us.

Many Problems

"In common with other Institutions we have had to materially increase the salaries of our teaching staff and indeed of the whole staff and everything is now so expensive that it has become a very serious question with most charities how they are going to carry on under their existing burden.

"We have never had so many children on our outdoor list as last year and this year we shall have a further increase. We spent altogether £11,951 on relief thus given. Since the Institution was founded we have helped no fewer than 10,100 children; what all the poor mothers of these children would have done without that help one does not like to contemplate."

CROWN OF SUCCESS

1919 - 1969

It was in good heart that the orphanage embarked upon its second 50 years. With the end of the war and the return to more normal conditions ashore and afloat there was a quickening of interest in the work being accomplished—an interest reflected in a welcome increase in financial help.

The special Jubilee Fund launched in 1919 had realised over £21,000. Donations "including ship and shore collecting boxes and proceeds of entertainments" increased. In 1921 for instance a total of £16,465 was reached. Contributions had been received from over 100 ships.

The revival in trans-Atlantic passenger traffic had played a major part. Canadian Pacific Steamships sent £2,210 and the White Star Line £750, "representing a percentage of passenger contributions". In addition to individual contributions from units of the Cunard fleet, an unexpected donation of £1,020 had been sent by Capt. Sir James Charles, master of the *Aquitania*, this sum having been contributed by his passengers "to endow a cot in the Institution".

Royal Accolade

So far as the orphanage itself was concerned the major event of 1921 was the visit by H.M. the Queen and Princess Mary during which they showed great interest in the children and the care bestowed on their welfare and education. As a direct result of the Queen's visit the Committee were advised that H.M. the King had been pleased to bestow upon the Institution the title "Royal" and also to grant to it a Royal Charter of Incorporation.

The succeeding years were marked by continuing and steady progress as recorded in the annual reports and the proceedings at the annual meetings which continued to be held each year at the Town Hall and presided over by the Lord Mayor then in office. It was inevitable that in the years since the orphanage had been built the need for structural repairs and the

introduction of more facilities for the children should have become necessary. In this respect a major overhaul and refit took place in 1923 involving an expenditure of over £12,000.

Yet another development, indicative of the close links forged between those responsible for the administration of the orphanage and the children themselves, was the continuing interest shown by the children who had completed their education. For them a special day was set apart each year known as "Old Scholars Sunday", an occasion which was always well supported.

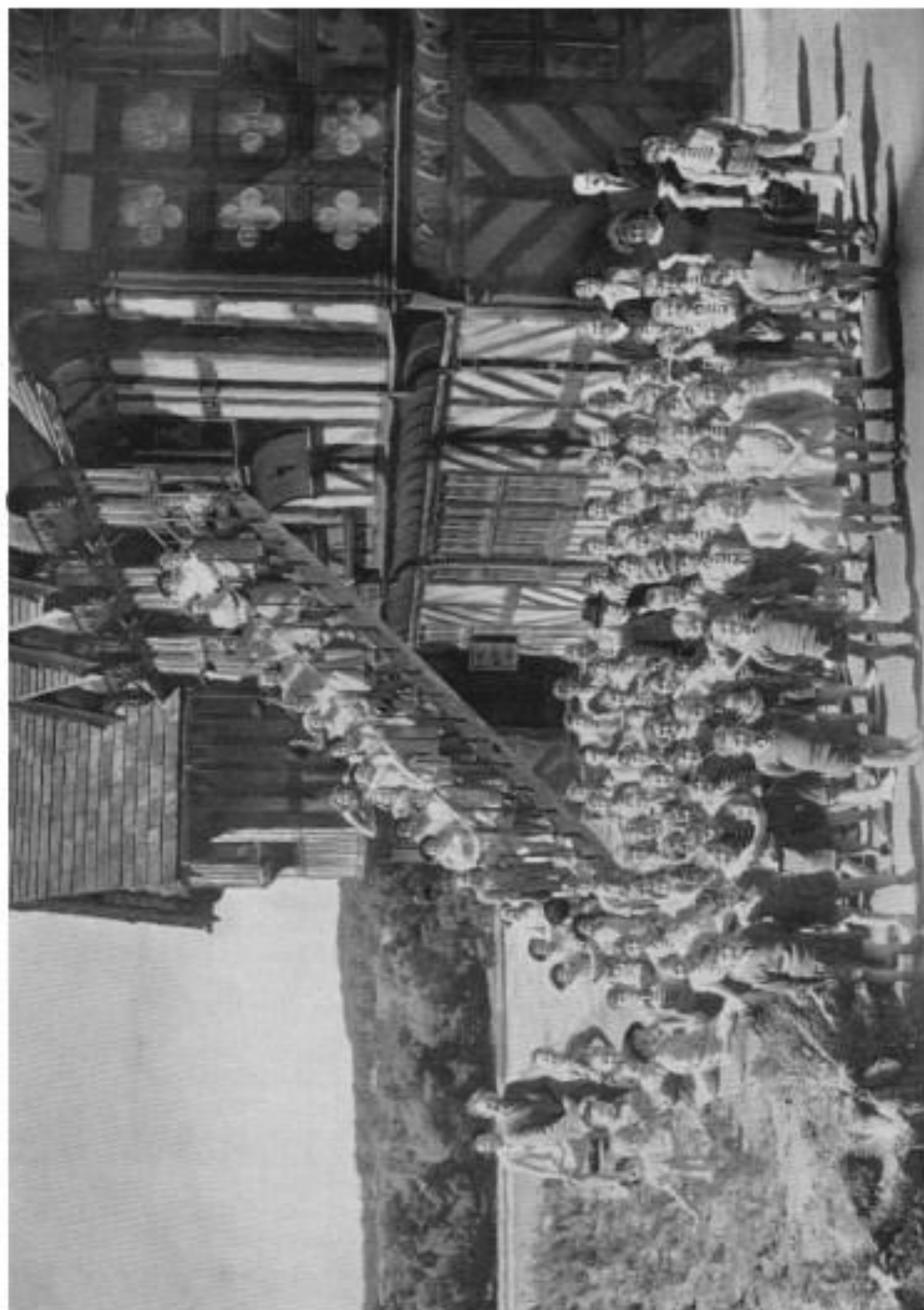
Similarly the Old Boys Society and the Old Girls Guild, mindful of the happiness they had found at Newsham Park, kept in close touch and on many occasions gave tangible expressions of their gratitude. As an instance on September 27, 1924 in celebration of the Jubilee of the orphanage, sports and games were arranged by the Society and Guild who provided the prizes and tea for the children and in the evening organised a special entertainment held in the school gymnasium.

Throughout these years priority was given to ensuring that the education of the children matched up to the educational standards of the time. In this respect there was an important development in 1936 when the boys' and girls' schools were reorganised to conform as far as possible with the recommendations of the Hadow Report.

Changes

In place of separate schools for boys and girls Senior and Junior mixed schools were instituted. The chief advantage of this new arrangement, it was stated, was that the children of each class would be of much the same age, the school being divided into 10 age groups whereas under the previous scheme children ranging from 9 to 14 years had been divided into five groups.

At the same time arrangements were made under which suitable children before leaving



Through the generosity of Mr. E. B. Royden (centre of group) and Mrs. Royden the children of the Institution found safety and happiness during the Second World War at Hill Bark, Frankby in the Wirral

the Junior School could sit for (Liverpool) City Scholarships with a view to entering a secondary school. This important development involved the building of a new block of classrooms so that children in the Senior School could specialise in individual subjects.

Reference to this was made by Mr. T. H. Naylor, Chairman of the Institution, at the annual meeting held on April 19, 1937. Stating it was hoped that the new building would be ready in the coming October Mr. Naylor added that there would be a Domestic Science Room for the girls and an Arts and Crafts Room where the boys would be taught handicrafts and the girls dressmaking. There would also be a workshop with individual benches and sets of tools for each boy and a Science Room where chemistry, physics and biology would be taught.

As the year 1938 progressed those responsible for the operation and maintenance of the orphanage found themselves caught up in a situation not of their own seeking but which posed many unusual and unexpected problems. Like other Institutions and educational authorities throughout the country they were affected by the darkening international scene and the

gathering war clouds over Western Europe.

Their immediate task was to ensure, as far as possible, the safety of the children in their care by taking precautions against air raids and making plans well in advance for the evacuation of the school.

Fears were somewhat allayed by the Munich Pact between Neville Chamberlain and Hitler in the September and when on Sunday, October 23, the Lord Mayor of Liverpool, Alderman M. Cory Dixon, and the Lady Mayoress, attended in State the Annual Anniversary Service held in the orphanage Chapel there seemed no reason to envisage that this would be the last occasion the Chapel would be the setting for this service. Yet so it was to prove.

The Committee did not shelve plans for the evacuation of the school. As had so often happened when special and complex problems concerning the orphanage had arisen a good friend had come along with an offer of practical help. In this particular instance Mr. E. B. Royden, a member of the Executive Committee, and Mrs. Royden had placed at the disposal of the orphanage their own home and grounds at Hill Bark, Frankby in the Wirral Peninsular.



Hill Bark, Annual Prize Day, July 1942. (Standing) Col. J. G. B. Beazley, hon. treasurer, Mr. E. B. Royden, dep. chairman, Miss Phyllis Lee, Chairman Hoylake Urban District Council, Mr. T. H. Naylor, chairman, Mr. F. A. Bates, president, Flag-Lt. A. Welby; (seated) Mrs. E. B. Royden, Admiral Sir Percy Noble, The Bishop of Chester (The Rt. Rev. Dr. D. H. Crick).

The Royal Liverpool Seamen's Orphan Institution



Winter held no terror for the children as warmly clad they set out for a walk from their war-time "home" at Hill Bark, Frankby



Summer brought with it the joys and excitement of Sports day—always an eagerly awaited event not complete without the gymnastic and Morris Dance displays

Reference to this generous offer was made by Mr. J. D. T. R. Tilney, Deputy Chairman, speaking in the absence of the Chairman, at the annual meeting held on March 27, 1939 when he said that "by this offer of Hill Bark with its house, stables and grounds the organisation for evacuation had been simplified and would be far easier than most other schools and institutions".

Nor indeed did the Committee defer action until the actual declaration of war on September 3, 1939. Throughout that uneasy summer work proceeded at the Hill Bark estate with the erection of huts and the installation of all essential facilities. As a result, with the willing co-operation of the orphanage staff and other helpers, the transfer of essential equipment was speedily effected and the orphanage and school re-opened at its new "home" on September 11—a remarkable testimony to the efficiency and skill with which "Operation Evacuation" had been carried out.

Hill Bark

There was no suggestion of the children "roughing" it. The cost of erecting this war-time orphanage including air raid shelters worked out at over £13,000 but as the President, Mr. F. A. Bates, emphasised not only were the children in a place of comparative safety "but the country life had worked wonders in their appearance and spirits".

Indeed as usually happens the children quickly adapted themselves to their new way of life, finding fresh outlets for enjoyment in the surrounding countryside which at that time had not been overtaken by the urbanisation "overflow", housing estates and industrial projects of the post-war years.

Daily Routine

So far as was practicable the daily routine which had been observed at the Orphanage in Newsham Park was maintained. It was not easy to do so. The call-up of teaching staff for National Service, the resignation of Medical Officers to the Institution for similar reasons, the recall for Naval Service of Capt. Henry

Grattan, R.N. (Retd) who had been Secretary to the Institution since 1923 were typical instances of the difficulties encountered. But they were overcome. A medical officer was found, new teaching staff engaged and Miss M. Forsyth took over secretarial duties.

Such problems were not peculiar to the orphanage administrators. They were common to all Institutions and other organisations involved in evacuation measures. Indeed in one respect at least the orphanage could count itself doubly fortunate. Not only had Mr. and Mrs. Royden come to the rescue with the offer of their estate at Frankby but they continued to live at Hill Bark and closely identified themselves with all that went on, helping in countless ways to make life easier and happier for the staff and the children. Their hospitality was unbounded and despite the obvious disruption to their normal domesticity nothing was too small for their personal attention.

Local Interest

Local residents and personnel at a Royal Air Force Station established nearby also took a great interest in the orphanage. Frankby Parish Church under its vicar, the Rev. Frank Davies, replaced the Chapel at Newsham Park and over the years the Carol Service given by the children each Christmas came to be regarded as one of the memorable events of the year.

Meanwhile the onset of the war, the continued air raids and, in particular, heavy losses of merchant shipping and crew personnel had resulted in increasing calls on financial resources.

At the annual meeting held in the Liverpool Town Hall on May 1, 1941 the President, Mr. F. A. Bates, stressed that throughout the 72 years of its existence there had never been a greater need for the Institution. "It has stood ready" he added "to care for the children of the sea—the children of the men today who are fighting at this moment a great battle on the ocean on our behalf, and now in the orphanage were 18 children who had lost their parents through enemy action, and assistance was being given in their own homes to more than 100 children whose fathers had also been killed by enemy action".

Revenue Down

Financially, as in the First World War, there had been a considerable loss in revenue from the collections among passengers voyaging in the great liners and help received from ship's officers and crews who in the past had done so much to supplement the funds of the institutions.

Intimately concerned as most of the Committee were with the business of shipping, port operations and associated commercial interests it was inevitable that the war years should have placed them under constant pressure. In the circumstances it might have been assumed that once having seen the orphanage secure in a "safe berth" at Frankby they would have been content to limit their activities to normal administration and maintenance problems.

A study of the annual reports for those years shows that this was not so. Despite many and often complicated business preoccupations the committee members still found time to take the liveliest interest in the affairs of the orphanage and in particular the likely effect of proposed changes in the country's educational system.

Priority

Matters relating to the education of all the children in their care, whether in residence at the orphanage or receiving outdoor assistance, had always been given priority. In the nature of things the committee were more directly concerned with educational facilities provided at the Orphanage school and did their utmost to ensure that such facilities matched those provided in State schools—as was indicated in the reports given by H.M. Inspectors after their annual visits to Newsham Park and, during the war years, to Frankby.

The Committee were determined that no child of special merit should be denied the opportunity of further advancement. Thus at the annual meeting held on May 8, 1940 the President, Mr. F. A. Bates, had reported that to meet the requirements of business firms seeking young employees it was hoped that as soon as facilities allowed the children would be given the opportunity of taking the Matriculation examination.

New Scheme

Again the report for the year 1942 recorded that after giving serious consideration to the problem of the school-leaving age and "blind alley" occupations with attractive war-time wages the committee had adopted a scheme whereby boys and girls who were likely to profit by it would be enabled to continue their education at a technical or secondary school, the fees being paid by the Seamen's Orphanage and a subsistence allowance being granted to the mother or guardian of any promising boy or girl until he or she reached the age of 16, subject to satisfactory reports being received from the schools concerned. The report added that five boys and one girl had taken advantage of the scheme.

Important Decision

At that particular time in the history of the Orphanage the Committee did not perhaps realise that in making this decision they had also taken the first steps in formulating a policy which was to have a profound effect upon the future administration of the Institution.

In succeeding years there was an increase in the number of children who took advantage of the prospect of continuing their education at secondary or technical schools. Meanwhile, as stated in the annual report for 1944 a close watch was being kept on the implications of the new Education Act and any changes that might be necessary were being carefully considered.

Again in 1946 the school was visited by H.M. Inspectors from the Home Office and Ministry of Education "and much discussion as to future accommodation and organisation has taken place". The report also recorded that considerable thought had been given to the position of the Institution under the new Act.

During 1946 it was decided to return to Newsham Park. The orphanage, which had been taken over by the Government for office purposes, had been damaged during the air raids. Considerable work was necessary to recondition the buildings for occupation by the children and negotiations for the necessary licences were in progress. The licences were received in April, 1947 and work was begun in the hope that

the buildings would be ready in 1948. In anticipation of this event Mr. E. J. G. Walford-Headen had been appointed House Governor taking up his duties at Hill Bark, Frankby in March, 1947.

Social Changes

But even while plans for eventual return to Newsham Park were being implemented the committee members were becoming increasingly concerned over the possible effect on the orphanage of the great changes in the country's social services stemming from State legislation in the post-war years.

Designed especially to assist people in need these new measures included Family Allowances, Health and Medical services, a revised education system, including free school meals, and many other financial benefits all of which it was hoped would go a long way towards relieving the necessities and easing the problems of families living in reduced circumstances.

The various changes posed no serious problems in respect of assistance given by the Committee to widows whose children were non-resident at the orphanage and for whom the out-door relief and special contingency funds were available. On the other hand there were unmistakable signs that when it was suggested to surviving parents that there was room at the orphanage for their children they were less responsive, seizing upon the new State services as a sheet anchor.

Last Resort

This attitude was understandable. It is only as a last resort that the majority of mothers would agree to such a parting. Indeed over the long years since the orphanage came into being there were probably many times when genuine gratitude for help received was tempered in private with grief that partings had been necessary.

In the circumstances it was inevitable that there should have been a decline in the number of children living during term time at the orphanage. At the end of 1939 there had been 170 resident children (94 boys and 76 girls); on December 31, 1947 the total had fallen to 115 (66 boys, 49 girls) and to 110 (65 boys and 55

girls) at the end of 1948. This in turn had created another problem. It was considered by educational experts at that time that if a school, such as that at Newsham Park, was to be run efficiently it should be attended by not less than 250 pupils. The contention was that as a result of the wide diversity in the ages of the children (5 to 15 years) difficulties would arise in arranging classes and games and at the same time keep up the required educational standards.

New Legislation

That might have been overcome. Much more serious were the implications of new legislation relating to education and the care of young children. In respect of education it was no longer permissible for children under 11 years of age and children over that age to attend the same school.

Like many thousands of parents the Committee, responsible as they were for the education of children in their care, found themselves confronted with the "11+" situation. But more catastrophic were the new laws under which it was no longer legal for young children to live in a school of an institutional character. This meant in effect that some 36 children under 11 years of age would have to leave the orphanage reducing to 69 the number of resident children.

Big Problems

It was problems of this magnitude which exercised the minds of the Committee, problems which caused much anxiety and heartsearching as the final solutions loomed darkly on the horizon. Obviously on economic grounds alone the maintenance and administration of the orphanage at Newsham Park built to house up to 400 children could not be justified—even if the "11+" educational problem could have been overcome.

Financially the Charity was comparatively well endowed. On the other hand expenses had increased since the end of the war at an alarming rate. At the end of 1947 the deficit for the year had been £5,000; in 1948 it had increased to £11,000. An added difficulty was that high taxation and high living costs were being reflected



Mr. John R. Turner, Chairman, Executive Committee

in the decrease in donations and subscriptions. The springs of charity were slowly drying up. There seemed little prospect of bridging the gap between income and expenditure.

So it was with great reluctance that the conclusion was reached to close the orphanage at Newsham Park while continuing to implement the objective of the founders in providing means for the education and maintenance of the children of deceased merchant navy seamen.

At the annual meeting held on July 25, 1949, the Chairman of the Executive Committee, Col. J. G. Beazley, gave a full explanation of the causes which had led to the decision. In a reference to the future he said that the Committee were in close and constant touch with the Ministry of Education—which as far the Charity was concerned exercised the functions of the Charity Commissioners—and that as soon as possible a definite scheme would be submitted to the subscribers.

Closure

Two days later, on Wednesday, July 27, 1949, the orphanage was closed. It had been in existence for 80 years, first at Duke Street and since 1874 at Newsham Park.

As a result of the closure huts and equipment at the Evacuation establishment at Frankby were sold by public auction realising £14,222 which was credited to the General Fund of the Institution. Negotiations were begun for the sale of the premises at Newsham Park. (These were completed in 1951 when the former orphanage was bought by the Ministry of Health and reconstructed as a hospital. This sale realised £125,000 which was forwarded to the Charity Commissioners for investment).

First Concern

And what of the children? Although they all had homes to which they were able to return the Committee's first concern was to ensure that the necessary help was given according to need. In instances where mothers expressed a wish for their children to continue in boarding schools the Committee made contact with various establishments and eventually secured places

for the children and met the cost of their education and maintenance.

At the annual meeting held on July 25, 1949 the Chairman had given an assurance that there would be no diminution in the extensive assistance which apart from its orphanage school the Charity had always given towards the maintenance and education of seamen's orphans.

"It is the view of the Committee," he continued, "that there still exists on a wide field associated with the maintenance and well-being of seamen's orphans in which the funds of the Charity can be usefully and valuably employed and it is the intention of the Committee to ensure that in whatever way the funds are used they shall be used for the benefit of seamen's orphans."

Immediate Challenge

To the furtherance of these objectives the Committee now set their hands. The immediate challenge was to decide the right course to be taken. It was not made any easier by the fact that many people had interpreted the closure of the orphanage at Newsham Park as marking the end of the Institution. This impression had to be put right and put right quickly. Much of this work fell upon the shoulders of Mr. Walford-Headen, House Governor of the Orphanage since 1947, and now Secretary of the Institution.

Apart from the daily administration routine, interviews with applicants for relief and contact with shipping companies and organisations concerned with the welfare of seafarers this work involved considerable travel. There were visits to the Ministry of Education in London and discussions with educational authorities on Merseyside and in other parts of the country.

Boarding School

There were contacts to make with boarding schools such as the Royal Merchant Navy School at Bearwood, the Sailors' Children's Society at Hull, the Liverpool Blue Coat School, and subsequent arrangements for the transfer of the children involved to their new schools.

It was a time of intense activity and constant diligence but gradually the pattern began to take shape. In the period since the orphanage was

closed a constant flow of requests for advice and help made it abundantly clear that despite the undoubted benefits of State Social Services there was, and always would be, a special place for the Institution in helping to resolve the fears and anxieties of widows of seafarers suddenly confronted with the task of bringing up families and without adequate financial resources to do so.

It was true that under the country's post-war social structure complete destitution was a thing of the past. But by reason of its very size and complexity the State System was to a great extent impersonal. A buff form duly completed and however sympathetically considered is no real substitute for personal visits and compassion.

Obviously Ministries, or for that matter local officials, cannot become too closely involved say in the problems besetting a widow left with a young family and who found it impracticable to seek even part-time employment, or the mother of a clever boy or girl for whom the prospect of a University entrance was eclipsed by the family's reduced financial circumstances, and the consequent need to leave school to find work.

In the solution of such very domestic problems, of immense importance to the families concerned, was to lie the work of the Royal Liverpool Seamen's Orphan Institution. It was not a new departure. It was in fact a continuation of what had always been done. No turning aside from the aims of the Founders was involved but merely their adaptation to meet the changing conditions of life in the post-war years with, so far as children were concerned, special emphasis on education, in particular ensuring that they would be able to participate fully in the ever-widening opportunities now available for further education.

This was made clear in the annual report for 1953 in which it was stressed that first and foremost the Institution was an educational foundation and that the first call upon funds must always be to provide the best education according to need. By this time it had also become evident that in formulating plans for the future there need be no great variation in the regulations by which the Institution had always been

governed and that the main work would fall into three channels.

These were the provision of boarding school education; the maintenance of children already in Secondary Schools and Further Education Colleges and the provision of grants and clothing towards the maintenance of children who would not benefit from boarding school or similar secondary education.

It had been found that in a large number of cases arrangements for the education of children in boarding schools provided the solution



Mr. H. D. Stevenson, Hon. Treasurer

to most problems. In this respect the link forged in 1949 with the Royal Merchant Navy School had proved particularly happy. In 1953 a total of 61 boys and girls were being educated there for whom the Institution accepted full financial responsibility.

At the same time the Committee were widening the scope of educational help to include fatherless children already attending Grammar Schools and whose mothers received special

THE ROYAL LIVERPOOL SEAMEN'S ORPHAN INSTITUTION

Incorporated by Royal Charter 1922

PRESIDENTS

Ralph Brocklebank	..	..	..	1869 - 1892
Alfred Turner	..	..	..	1892 - 1896
Sir William B. Forwood	..	..	..	1897 - 1919
J. H. Beazley	..	..	..	1920 - 1929
Charles Booth	..	..	..	1930 - 1938
Frederick A. Bates	..	..	..	1939 - 1957
Sir Geoffrey Beazley	..	..	..	1958 - 1962
T. H. Naylor	..	..	..	1962 - 1966
G. Gordon Beazley	..	..	..	1967 -

CHAIRMAN—EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

James Beazley	..	..	..	1869 - 1887
R. G. Allan	..	..	..	1887 - 1903
J. H. Beazley	..	..	..	1903 - 1920
E. S. Parker	..	..	..	1920 - 1936
T. H. Naylor	..	..	..	1936 - 1948
Col. J. Geoffrey B. Beazley	..	..	..	1948 - 1955
G. Gordon Beazley	..	..	..	1955 - 1967
John R. Turner	..	..	..	1967 -

HONORARY TREASURERS

Robert Alexander	..	..	..	1869 - 1871
James Beazley	..	..	..	1871 - 1887
Sir James Poole	..	..	..	1887 - 1898
Edwin A. Beazley	..	..	..	1898 - 1924
Col. J. G. B. Beazley	..	..	..	1924 - 1958
Hugh D. Stevenson	..	..	..	1958 -

SECRETARIES

H. T. Miller	..	..	..	1869 - 1873
Comdr. E. Stubbs	..	..	..	1874 - 1908
Capt. R. H. L. Risk	..	..	..	1908 - 1923
Capt. H. Grattan	..	..	..	1923 - 1943
Miss M. Forsyth	..	..	..	1943 - 1950
E. J. G. Walford-Headen	..	..	..	1950 -

maintenance grants. Yet another development concerned instances where prior to the father's death family arrangements had already been made for the children to go to fee-paying day and boarding schools.

Inevitably there were times when the death of the father, and consequent financial difficulties, made the implementation of such plans very problematical. When the attention of the Committee was drawn to such cases assistance was given by augmenting the amount the widows themselves were able to contribute. In yet another direction financial help was given to enable children to continue with further education courses including University entrance.

Other Schemes

Meanwhile the problem of out-door relief, instituted at the inception of the Charity, was not overlooked. This scheme provided for small money grants each month and the provision of clothing for children, who, for one reason and another, would not benefit from boarding school education. The scheme was revised to enable a considerable increase to be made in the number of families helped in this way.

Decisions by the Committee to grant assistance, no matter what form it took, did not mark the end of the matter. As had always been the practice once a family came under the care of the Institution a personal link was forged which was never loosened until the children concerned had completed their education. Indeed over the years it had been found that widows and indeed their children came to look to the Committee *in loco parentis* and increasingly sought advice and guidance by letter or by personal visits.

Advice On Careers

This was particularly so when the time came for a decision to be made about the future careers to be followed by the children. No problem was too trivial to be dismissed out-of-hand and considerable care, time and thought was taken to help mothers and children to reach a decision. Inevitably there were times

when the outcome proved disappointing but these were more than offset by the successes. The Committee sought no rewards beyond the knowledge that their financial help and guidance had not been in vain.



Mr. E. J. G. Walford-Headen, Secretary

Today the administrative work of the Institution is continued from offices in Oriel Chambers, Water Street—in the centre of Liverpool's shipping, banking and commercial life and within sight and sound of the Mersey and the constant movement of ships going about their various occasions.

It is here that the Executive Committee, under the chairmanship of Mr. John R. Turner, hold their meetings when the progress of the children under their care is discussed, approval given to proposed grants and plans formulated to implement still further the purpose of the Institution.

To these simple and unpretentious offices come letters from shipping companies and organisations concerned with the welfare of seafaring men advising of recently bereaved

families. And it is here that widows troubled with family problems which to them may seem insuperable, are invited to come by Mr. Walford-Headen, the secretary, so that they may explain their difficulties and leave in the comforting knowledge that if it is thought help is merited it will be forthcoming.

Since that day in December 1868 when the people of Liverpool met in the Mercantile Marine Service Association's rooms in Water Street to learn about and approve proposals for the setting up of an establishment "to feed, clothe and educate the fatherless children of seafaring men", the Royal Liverpool Seamen's Orphan Institution has voyaged a long way.

Long Voyage

It has voyaged a long way since the day in August 1869 when, as a result of the generosity of shipowners and merchants and support from the general public, the temporary "home" at 128 Duke Street opened its doors to the first group of children and since that memorable day in September 1874 when the Duke of Edinburgh formally opened the new Orphanage Buildings in Newsham Park.

Over the past 100 years working conditions at sea and social conditions on shore have improved beyond recognition. But amidst all these changes, and the benefits they have brought, there stands out one irrefutable fact which will never change—the death through illness or accident of a married seafaring man whether it took place on board a sailing ship in

1869 or takes place on board a computer controlled merchant ship of 1969 means that overnight a wife becomes widowed, as often as not confronted with the task of bringing up a fatherless family.

And just as a century ago the founders of the Liverpool Seamen's Orphan Institution took immediate steps to assist families most in need of help and assumed responsibility for the education of the children, so today do their successors. The objectives laid down in 1869 remain the same but the scope has been widened so that the orphaned children of 1969 may share with others, more fortunate, the educational opportunities so prominent a feature of the family way of life in Britain today.

Dedicated Task

Much has been accomplished. Now on the threshold of the Institution's second century much more remains to be done. It is work which has no end. But with the continuing help and the practical support of generous friends and well-wishers and in the quietness and confidence from which its strength is derived The Royal Liverpool Seamen's Orphan Institution will not fail in the dedicated task to which it has set its hand.

Throughout the changing years, in fair weather and foul, those responsible for the Institution have kept faith with the founders. It is with justifiable pride they can look back on a century of progress and service in caring for thousands of seafarers' families in time of need.

"But now abideth faith, hope and charity; the greatest of these is charity."



THE ROYAL LIVERPOOL SEAMEN'S ORPHAN INSTITUTION

Incorporated by Royal Charter 1922

PATRONS:

HER MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH THE QUEEN MOTHER
THE RT. HON. THE EARL OF DERBY

PRESIDENT:

G. GORDON BEAZLEY, Esq. T.D.

CHAIRMAN OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

JOHN R. TURNER, Esq.

HON. TREASURER:

H. D. STEVENSON, Esq.

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*F. D. H. MATHER, Esq.	*J. A. TAYLOR, Esq.
SIR JOHN NICHOLSON, BART., C.I.E.	*JOHN R. TURNER, Esq.

**Member of the Executive Committee*

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