



No. 6

August, 1957

Warden's Letter

The Mallon Garden

I wrote in my last *Letter* that the bombed site between us and Commercial Street was to be ready as a Garden this summer. On 3rd June there was an opening ceremony. The Chairman of the London County Council, Mr. McKinnon Wood, handed the lease to Lord Waverley who received it on behalf of Toynbee Hall and then the Mayor of Stepney took over formally the responsibility for maintenance which the Borough Council have accepted. Mary, Duchess of Devonshire declared it open as the Mallon Garden and dedicated it to the use of the public. Dr. and Mrs. Mallon were present and you will see from the picture how well they looked. The proceedings were further enlivened by the Band of the Irish Guards which Captain C. Jaeger was good enough to bring for the occasion. Some 60 children from the Canon Barnett School attended and it is good to record that they are following the injunctions of the Duchess and are respecting the Garden. The Garden is being well used and there have been three evening band concerts given by the Bethnal Green Silver Prize Band.

His Worship the Mayor

All Residents of Toynbee will remember Mrs. Reardon who has lived here for 48 years and still works among us. Her son,

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whom we have known familiarly as Johnnie and who still lives here with his wife, we are now proud to address as Your Worship since his election to the Mayoral chair of Stepney. We have gone up a peg now that the Mayoral car and chauffeur are to be seen so frequently in our courtyard.

Residents

Residents go and come with the flow of time. Numbers have kept up and through the year our twenty places have been usually full. Residents have been active in the various ways I have recorded earlier. Eight are now "honorary uncles" to boys in circumstances which emphasize their need for adult friendship. Others are continuing their work as visitors to Approved Schools and in the Vallance Boys' Club nearby. Some are helping with redecoration of premises.

Students' Activities

Classes have come to an end for the summer vacation, but students are busy in other ways. At Easter a party of 40 students went to Paris and parties are under way for Majorca and Italy. So the old tradition goes on, although foreign travel is not so rare a habit as it was when Toynbee sent parties to Italy in the 'eighties of last century, and to Greece and Iceland in the 'nineties.

There have been residential schools for students devoted to particular themes: at Lodge Hill, Pulborough, for French students, in March, and at Ridley Hall, Cambridge, for Music students, in April. The culmination was a week's school at Leicester, organized by the Drama Department in July.

This year the students have restarted a Toynbee Magazine. It is a bright little publication devoted to their own interests and giving scope for the original writer.

Old People

The Old People's Service is growing and activities multiply. In May, Miss Morris took a party of 28 for a week to Bexhill and this was so great a success that she is already planning for next year. These holidays are paid for largely by the guests themselves through a paying-in scheme over the months; and the Borough Council makes a grant-in-aid. In addition there have been an increasing number of outings of which the most enterprising was



[By courtesy of Ridgeway Feature Press

Lord Waverley Dr. & Mrs. Mallon

Mary, Duchess of Devonshire

The Opening of the Mallon Garden

for two coach loads who went to Southsea on 16th July and enjoyed themselves greatly despite mixed weather.

The Veterans' Club is abounding in activity and membership is now 114. It meets weekly instead of fortnightly, and there is an increasing variety of entertainment not only at the weekly tea, but on specially arranged evening occasions. Many members are enjoying the sunshine and music in the new Mallon Garden.

The panel of those willing to visit housebound old people is growing; but more are wanted. Regular visits are made to 37 people, and this most important work can be extended when more visitors are recruited. I appeal urgently to all our friends to help us to increase the panel.

American Seminar

Once again the American Seminar, accompanied by Dr. Sherwood Eddy, was held, this year in radiant summer weather. The time for enrolment had coincided with the alarms caused

by the imbroglio in the Middle East and nervousness tended to keep people at home. Quality however suffered nowise, and there were some other groups of Americans in London at the same time who joined for parts of the programme. We are grateful once again to all the speakers who included Professor Lionel Robbins on *Britain's Economic Situation*, Lord Salter on *Britain and America*, Mr. Kenneth Younger on *Britain and the Middle East*, Mr. George Mikes on *Russia and Hungary*, Mr. James Griffiths on *Britain and her Colonies*, Lord Reading on *Britain and Europe*, Mr. W. W. Simpson on *Religion in Britain*, Alderman C. Tucker on *Transatlantic London*, Sir Allen Daley on *The National Health Service* and Miss Reader Harris on *Personal Responsibility in the Welfare State*. The members were received at Lambeth Palace by the Archbishop of Canterbury and at the House of Commons by Mr. Glenvil Hall, M.P., Mr. Denis Healey, M.P., and Mr. Herbert Morrison, M.P.

Historic Link

An article in the June number of the *Contemporary Review* by W. T. Bowman, who formerly lived in Balliol House, part of Toynbee Hall, tells of a visit in 1902 of a Russian refugee living in the East End. The occasion was a debate on Foreign Policy, opened by John Morley and the little man, rather shabbily dressed, but evidently an intellectual, attacked the speaker passionately in broken English. A few days later he was invited to tea in Balliol House with the Dean and the writer, who records that he ate a meal that showed he was evidently very hungry. There was a lively discussion in which he declared his contempt for Christianity and his belief in the necessity of bloody revolution before he left expressing thanks for the hospitality. He went by the name of Richter but he is better known as Lenin.

Special Pleas

I end in beggary. I want especially two kinds of help:

- (a) visitors for the housebound;
- (b) easy chairs and settees for the Veterans' Club.

A. E. MORGAN, *Warden*

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of those with the faith and courage that can and do remove mountains.

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REVISING MARX

Mr. Strachey considers that "renewed attempts to assess the nature of con-

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LENIN IN LONDON

TN 1902 I was a resident in Toynbee Hall, or, to be more exact, in Balliol House which was an annexe of Toynbee Hall and was known as a

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