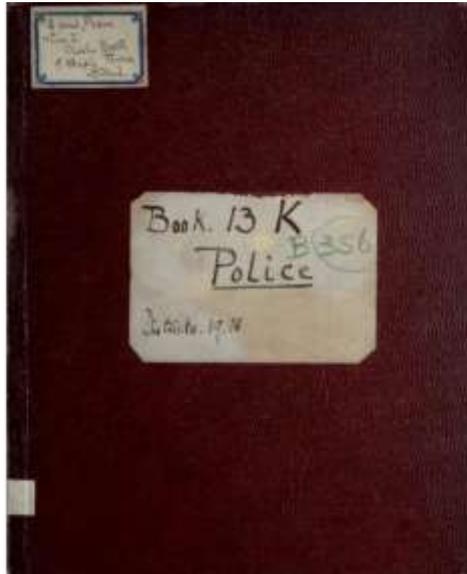


## Booth's journals



These are notes from the books only in LSE library.

The interviews contain information on local government, poor relief, housing, health, employment and remarks on religion, police, drink, prostitution, crime, marriage, thrift and social conditions.

(See page 8 below for transcriptions from police notebooks that are available online.)

### Book 214

p 4-15. Interview with Mr Hugh J. Menzies, **chairman** of St Pancras vestry, 28 October 1898. [These comments are for the whole of Pancras]

Vestry small-tradesmen, 'think more of keeping down the rates than public health or anything else'. He carried through the electric lighting scheme. 'The Vestry is honest but blundering' – needs better administration.

Rates are rising because of the Termini. Socially, the parish is 'certainly going down.' The district is greatly overcrowded. Two thirds live in tenements with less than five rooms, and more just 1-2 room tenements than any other sanitary district in London. Many back gardens have workshops and fronts become shops.

Sykes [medical officer for the Parish] is a clever man ... 'until within the last few years builders were left pretty much to their own devices' ... the drainage is defective ... Wood paving has been laid in several streets but not much asphalt – which is opposed by people who have horses...Dust removed partly by direct labour partly by contract. Minimum wage 24/-. King Street bath-house 'pays its way', Whitfield street doesn't. Much investment in new baths in Kentish Town. Cemetery at Highgate 'yielding fair profit'.

'Religion is losing ground and drinking habits are increasing'

p16-49. Interview with Dr J.F.Sykes, **medical officer** of St Pancras. Contains newspaper cutting concerning sanitation, housing and open spaces and, 1 November 'He has watched St Pancras get into this second stage of families on each floor, they [houses] are ill-adapted, gardens built with workshops.' St Giles reaching the third stage of offices, so that residents move outwards. 'overcrowding'...

The 'parish is populated by a very medium class', 'always trying to get something' Politics - two equivalent parties, 'the pendulum constantly swinging from one side to the other'.

1890 published a list of 20 bad places in the parish, which got response for all but three vestrymen (some being Ecclesiastical Commissioners) ... delayed by rehousing. Should build outside London – '*a little tyranny for the people's good*'

100 year memories of St Pancras:

Rhodes' corn-fields famous for kite-flying  
Political or religious oratory was aired in the open  
Fatal duels at the Chalcot in 1803, 1818, 1821  
Numerous chapels - Whitfields eloquent voice was silent and Wesley had preached the funeral service  
Catholic community at St Aloysius in Clarendon Square  
George Morland lived at the Red Cap  
St Pancras 2672 acres

p51-81. Notes and extracts from St Pancras medical officer's report 1892:

'Poor' - 7282, of which

- 1897 workhouse,
- 439 St Anne's House,

- 472 infirmary,
- 639 in schools,
- 140 children boarded out,
- 1450 insane,
- 500 other institutions,
- 1642 out-relief.

## **Book 215**

Pp 36-45. Interview with Reverend J.A.Fyfe, **Vicar of St Stephens**, Camden Town, [ie Camden Chapel in Camden Street , now All Saints] 21 November 1898.

Church quite empty. In maps, Camden St much better, Queen St much worse. Population artisans, mechanics, clerks shopkeepers with some parish employees and labourers. On the whole regularly employed. Not much interested in religion, nor to be got at by ministers in any way.

An attempt by the Social Institute Union to establish meetings with concerts in the Board School failed and was abandoned. Good music, well managed but people did not come. The curate thought not being allowed to smoke killed it.

The St Pancras Reform Club which is in Pratt Street is however crowded – a drinking club and very bad influence. Women wait outside to get the men home. Many have find employment in the piano factories and ‘as men and women are employed, the earnings are often large’.

Schools are full – Jews and RCs as well as CofE. No Mothers meeting but they manage a Clothing Club.

They can apply for a Queen’s nurse and hospital letter and helped very liberally (as they subscribe little) by Mansion House. Men used to be in friendly societies but money was ‘not laid by’.

Health – St Pancras people look well after this – had made him redo all his drains.

Comment – a man of common sense, no clerical humbug about him.

116-125. Interview with Reverend E. B. Penfold, **Vicar of St Michael's** Camden Town and Rural Dean of St Pancras. At his residence, 18 Gloucester Crescent.

Mission hall in Greenland St, 1888.

[The St Michael's parish was mainly to the west of Kentish Town Road, outside Camden Town.]

Union Terrace [Hawley Road] when he came was very respectable but Mr Bridgeman 'built it up at the back in a disgraceful way and let it out on conditions that ensured decline'. He denied the houses had ever been brothels.

Congregation mainly poor with some middle class Temperance is very important, mothers meetings and 'social evenings for the lads'. Charitable relief given to the sick and aged. Soup kitchen twice a week for children 'given by York Swimming Club'. He compared the virtue of people very unfavourably with that of the East End where he had previously been.

## 216

43. Poster -- Programme of services in St Pancras workhouse, no date

45-47 Mr Waffendale, **Presbyterian minister**

Out-relief 'should give more, so that hard-working honest poor are not forced out of their houses. Always fever or something of that kind about. Housing 'inadequate' – should have more. But 'a wonderful improvement since the Board Schools came into being'.

48-61. Interview with Reverend W. Mincher, minister of King Street **Primitive Methodist** Chapel, Camden Town. Minister lives 39 St Paul's Road. [Contains pamphlet for Literary and Debating Society 1898, 8 November 1898. – committee includes 'Mrs Heal'.]

'A regular son of the people. Dark, restless eyes, and a short pointed beard.'

Over 27 years in Camden Town, 'the change to the district has been marvellous. Before in St Paul's road the houses had a servant, now they have a lodger. More since LCC abolished the gates in St Paul's Road. 'Camden Town is becoming a business place.' Chiefly tradesmen and workpeople, many with the railways. Congregations on Sunday 150 am, 450 eve. There is Band of Hope and Christian Endeavour Society.

Saturdays 'large temperance meeting' and a 'good temperance choir'. But 'the temperance movement has "degenerated into entertainment" instead of "teaching the people"'.

Camden Street Wesleyan 'I don't think they do much'. "Like all the rest suffers from the removal of the better class of people." [Alas]Denomination like ours 'measures everything by statistics'.

## 213

118-127. Interview with C.W.Wannell, 41 Camden Road, treasurer of the Chalk Farm Corps of the Salvation Army, Chalk Farm Road, November [1898]

Wannell 'is a sturdy, thickset man of 40 to 45; with keen eyes, closely cut beard; the face bespeaking a mind as sturdy as the body'

'Men who come are from the labouring classes – railway men employed in the goods traffic, coalies, bricklayers' labourers and their wives. Also has a large number of domestic servants.'

Sunday – 4 services, evening at 8pm 700 'always packed'. Monday 200 with music, Wednesday " a 'soldiers' night"- 'the more remarkable as the hall is quite hidden from the main street'. A small outpost at Pratt Mews proved 'unsuitable' premises.

Young people's union – just above school age – classes of music, drawing, fret-cutting, shorthand, dressmaking etc. Have a sick nursing brigade.

He had quite a string of cases of families which had been entirely changed by coming ... they become respectable, dress decently and get a comfortable home. ...

Coalies who saved money to buy a house and then started on their own account. Several now have five or six houses and employ men.

72-81. Interview with R. Edgson of **Mission Room**, 78 Kings Road, Camden Town, city missionary. Contains printed invitation and card indicating services at the Grange Mission. 31 October 1898.

His district is a small almost rectangular block bounded by Pratt Street, High Street Camden Town, Camden Road and Kings Road. A 'respectable' district – "but the people are not too respectable to receive me".

'The poorest parts are Little Randolph Street, Caroline Street, Prebend Street and the court out of it.' Little Randolph Street 'very poor' – 'four or five families in a house of six rooms & wash-house'. Alms houses 'each containing three old women'. Prebend street four rooms and two families. The population is mainly working class – a very large proportion are railway men. Several families receive poor relief. Rents are high - £40 and rents and taxes for an eight-roomed house. Two rooms let for 7/6d.

Mission room at 78 Kings Road will hold 60 people. 'It is one of the strangest places I have seen.' The house is a detached villa and the lady (Miss Caesar – 'a bright, cheerful middle-aged woman) has placed her back room at the disposal of the mission. Approached from the side entrance and fitted with platform and chairs. Sunday evening Gospel service, 60 people of which 12 men, almost all coming from local to the hall. On Wednesday afternoon mothers' meeting and Thursday evening Women's bible meeting. Open air meetings Sunday and Thursday at the corner of Great Randolph Street.

Visits to the houses, 'factories, stables and wharves' in the district. Friday weekly service at Idris and annual service there for 200 men and 50 women.

A portion of Bayham Street on the west between Hamilton and Greenland Street is now very poor – a distinct contrast to the rest of the street.

St Thomas church visit a good deal in the district. It is the 'lowest' church: St Michael's is very 'high'.

Police have not much to do in a district. Drink is the chief factor of crime. Not much prostitution – 'used to be one or two houses in King's Road, but they have been cleared'.

'The railway men as a class have come from the country. They have had religious instruction and so are not opposed to religion.'

St. Pancras Evangelical Free Church Council.

ROTA OF

## SUNDAY AFTERNOON SERVICES,

From 3 to 4 o'clock, in

**St. Pancras Workhouse,**

Conducted by THE NONCONFORMIST MINISTERS OF THE PARISH.

1898.

Oct. 2	-	Rev. Z. B. WOFFENDALE	
" 9	-	" H. H. ALLEN	(COMMUNION)
" 16	-	" D. W. VAUGHAN, M.A.	
" 23	-	" R. M. THORNTON, D.D.	
" 30	-	" W. MINCHER	
Nov. 6	-	" F. T. CATERER	
" 13	-	" J. CRITCHISON	(COMMUNION)
" 20	-	" J. B. BINNEY	
" 27	-	" GEO. A. SUTTLE	
Dec. 4	-	" T. WYNNE-JONES	
" 11	-	" M. LANSDOWN	(COMMUNION)
" 18	-	-	Christmas Carol Service
" 25	-	" D. M. CONNAN, M.A.	

Should any Minister be unable to fulfil his engagement, it is understood that he will kindly effect an exchange, or provide a suitable Substitute.

It is suggested that each Minister invite some of his Office-bearers, Singers, and Organist, to be present with him.

ORDER OF SERVICE:—(1) Brief Invocation; (2) Hymn; (3) Reading; (4) Hymn; (5) Prayer; (6) Sermon; (7) Hymn; (8) Benediction.

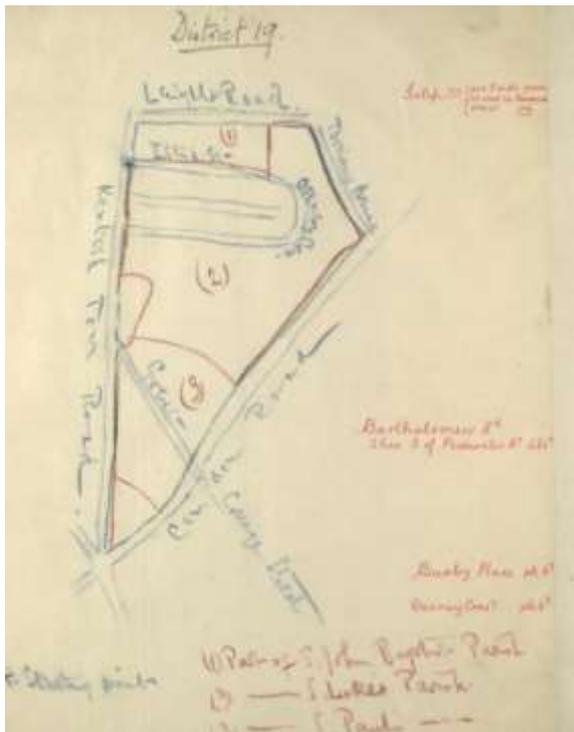
HERWOOD ALLEN, Hon. Sec., 49, ST. AUGUSTINE'S ROAD, N.W.

### 356 – (Available online)

([www.booth.lse.ac.uk](http://www.booth.lse.ac.uk))

Ernest Aves' Notebook: Police District 18 [Somers Town and Camden Town], District 19 [Kentish Town] Date 1898-1899

8-17. Walk with Inspector Tomkin, District 19 [Kentish Town], 25 October [1898].



Rochester Road mixed, Rochester Terrace mainly single occupants with 'lodgers the exception'

Wilmot Place 'a wonderful quiet neighbourhood ... giving no trouble'

Reed's Place letting for 15/- 'very quiet'

Artisans' building (Durdans etc) no casual labourers, mainly mechanics 'pretty strict'  
Etc

Clarendon Mews – 'a poor class of omnibus employees'

Great College Street 'I don't think you would find any furnished apartments there'

Jeffreys Street 'quiet working class'

Clarence Road – 'Southern block facing Kentish Town Rd. creeper covered, for once in a way making artisans' dwellings quite pretty'.

Bonny Street – pink etc

Kentish Town Road – some shoddy buildings, shops with accommodation (working-class) overhead, Turkish Baths on west side south of Union Terrace.

68-79. General remarks on the whole of the Kentish Town sub-district.

Kentish Town is going both up and down. While well-do-do middle class tending to move further out of town, the poorer parts – except for the 'rubbish heaps' such as Litcham St and Praten St – appear to be less poor.

3 areas: west of Kentish Town Road working class although poverty occasional; east of Kentish Town Road and Gt College Street – 'street after street of large houses intended for the middle classes, rapidly turning into the well-to-do working classes; 'It is becoming Midland rather than middle class'. The railway is the great influence. Declining: 'More people and less money per family'. All built in the last 40 years, no courtyards, clearances are not necessary; but time for houses to get into disrepair and shoddiness. Not bad enough to call for Vestry interference.

But a respectable working class is creating a rising demand.



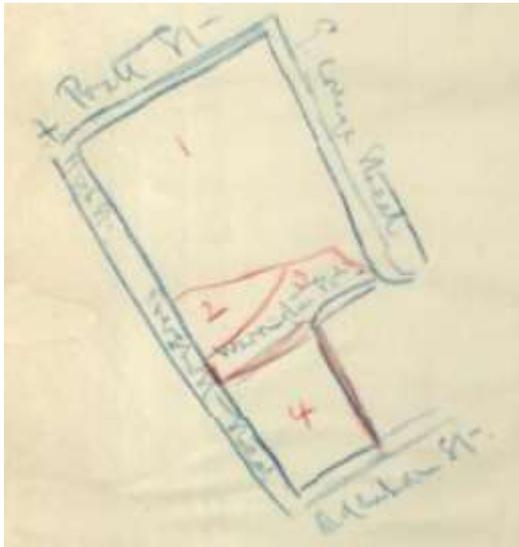
86-95. Walk with Inspector Bowles, of the Somers' Town Police sub-division, District 18 [Somers Town and Camden Town], 14 November 1898.



King's Road. Some of the houses on the east side are semi-detached, with tiny sleeping gardens in front: "a perfect picture in the summer" but these are very exceptional. Otherwise dominated by businesses and Bass.

96-111. Walk with Inspector Bowles, District 18 [Somers Town and Camden Town], 15 November 1898.96. Sketch map of walk.

97. Description of boundaries of walk: on the north Pratt Street; on the east Great College Street, Stibbington Street; on the south Aldenham Street, Werrington Street; on the west Eversholt Street, Camden High Street. Part of the parishes St Stephen's and St Matthew's [St Pancras].



Pratt Mews No-one living here (ie workshops)

Bayham Street – as north end

High Street – an important thoroughfare

Little King Street – north side stables with rooms over; 2 storey cottages – railwaymen, coff [sic] stall keepers, cab proprietors

King Street – like Pratt Street

Queen Street – 'good broad street, respectable but unusually depressing in appearance'

Archer Street. 'Much improved: all courts have gone, a few new houses. Rogers piano factory 'breaks the line of colour on the east side'

Camden St – West side 2 storey 'quiet and respectable', some 3 storey on east side, 3-4 rooms @ 9/- to 11/-.

College Place 'even more transformed, having been rebuilt'. Flats, bow windows, and police officers – including informant. School board officers. 'Great swells on Sundays'.

Great College St west side houses belonging to Ecclesiastical Commissioners to Crowndale; at end is S Pancras Labour Bureau with about 30 men outside reading the newspapers.

College Place –

Camden Street 'has lost its red' – 'apartments' (for rent)

Crowndale: Bayham-Camden Street block the best; unkempt gardens; shops 'of a rather poor type'

Bayham Place – quiet, new workshops.

144-153. Walk with Inspector Bowles, District 19 [Kentish Town], 29 November [1898].

Includes: - Sketch map of walk. Description of boundaries of walk: on the north Camden Road; on the east York Road; on the south St Paul's Road, Wrotham Road, Kings Road. Part of the parishes of St Paul's and St Thomas [St Pancras].



Camden Road 'mainly private residential'

York Road: shops good at North end, but rapidly deteriorate.

Not tenements: large rooms; moderate reputation. The Crown Tavern and the City of London: liquor can be supplied at all hours, but no complaints and well managed.  
Camden Mews – stables, cabbies  
Camden Park Road substantial houses  
Clifton Road 'getting decidedly shabby'  
Clifton Villas – gone down 'some of the houses not even maintaining the level of the shabby genteel'. Affected by removal of the gates by LCC a few years ago and proximity of the cattle market.  
South and North villas 'have maintained their position more successfully'  
Cantlowes and St Augustine's both slight deterioration  
St Paul's mews – a smith etc, very untidy. North side "never" occupied  
Marquis Road – respectable, houses stand back a little.  
St Paul's Crescent 'all good working class'  
St Paul's road 'gone down considerably – only three families keep servants now'.  
Rents and rates at £45 necessitates sub-letting  
St Augustine's Road - good semi-detached houses  
Camden Square – remains good since the railway as square protected by a keeper.  
Rochester Square – centre has nurseryman  
Stratford Place 'very respectable working class'  
Murray Street shopkeepers  
Elm Road  
Wrotham Road – very respectable working class; 'one queer little pink house, 12 ft at its widest and 4ft at its narrowest point, but looking spick and span, and boldly fronting the street with its four little windows'.  
Rochester Place dwellings 'new and old'.

Below, a section of the Booth map with social gradings  
See also **[booth.lse.ac.uk](http://booth.lse.ac.uk)**

