

CHAPTER ELEVEN

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

In spite of the predominance of multiple stores and modern factories, Slough has a surprising number of long-established industries and shop-keepers. Some, it is true, have changed hands, or merely retain the original name under new management, but others have continued in the same family for several generations.

The earliest known industry, apart from agriculture and its ancillary crafts, such as milling, wheelwrighting, and smithery, was that of brick-making which, as we have seen, was flourishing even before Eton College was built in the first half of the 15th century. There is scope for research into local brick-making firms, of which the best known was owned by the Nash family, who came from Beaconsfield to settle at Upton Court in 1707, (1) and were tenants there until 1809, (2) and records of whom in the Parish registers date back to 1737. Several of them were associated with the brickfields north of the railway, which formerly covered the area from Stoke Road to Wexham Road, and from thence across to Uxbridge Road.

Thomas Nash started the Slough and Langley Brickfields about 1845. A company was formed in 1893, under the name of H. & J. Nash Ltd., which made some 14 million bricks annually. Among other contracts, they supplied bricks for building the Eton College Memorial to the Fallen of the South African War (1899-1902), thus carrying on the tradition of Slough brickfields supplying building material for Eton College after 500 years. (3)

The business was taken over by another Company in 1920, and re-organized 15 years later under the name of the Slough and Langley Brick Co. (1935) Ltd. The Slough area is now covered with houses, but the Langley site is occupied by the London Ballast Co., who have supplied gravel for many roads in this district, including the M.4 motorway. (4)

The Nashs played a prominent part in the public life of Slough, and were generous donors to the various funds for the building and extension to St. Mary's parish church. There is a stained glass window in St. Mary's to the memory of Herbert Nash of Upton Lea. See also p. 148.

E. Sargeant & Sons, the well-known firm of funeral directors in Church Street, was founded in 1712, and the Sargeant family has furnished the Parish Clerks of Slough for over 150 years, during which time they have had the care of the Parish Registers. On 1 January, 1972, the Bucks County Record Office was appointed the Diocesan Record Office by the Bishop of Oxford, and the older Church Registers were removed there, but the current register remained in the custody of Mr. Edward Sargeant, the present Parish Clerk. (5)

Lovegrove's Bakery, (6) which was founded in 1742, in the High Street, was acquired by W.A. Lidstone in 1891. Mr. Lidstone built a cornshop next to the Bakery, on the site now occupied by 206, High Street (the British Home Stores). On the death of Mr. Lidstone in 1936, the business was split between his two sons. Albert H. Lidstone built a Bakery in India Road in 1937, and opened a Bakers & Confectioners shop in Grove Parade, High Street. He sold out and retired in 1948. Mr. Gilbert Lidstone built a Corn Store at The Grove in 1937 and opened the shop in High Street and another in Stoke Road, both of which are still carrying on business, but the store in The Grove was closed in October 1971, when The Grove Mills were opened at Taplow. Mr. Gilbert Lidstone also began farming at George Green in 1942. (7)

Several of the older inhabitants of Slough informed me in the 1930's that the first factory established in Slough was a firm of manufacturing ironmongers and engineering contractors, set up in 1815. I have been unable so far to find any satisfactory evidence of the oral tradition of this firm's existence, but it may well be true, as before the French Wars ended with the Battle of Waterloo on 18 June, 1815, there was a great demand for such products.

A firm which undoubtedly dates back to 1815 is John Deverill Ltd., which, together with Bowyers, has been foremost for several generations among the firms responsible for public buildings, shops, homes and factories in Slough. John Deverill Ltd. is still in existence under the same name, although the last member of the Deverill family connected with it died in 1971. The earliest epitaph to the Deverills in Upton churchyard is to John Deverill (1810-1891).

Among the firm's more important buildings are Cippenham School, Elmshott Lane; the present Rectory in Albert Street, the original Slough Nurses' Home in Burlington Road, and the new clinic extension, alterations to St. Bernard's Convent and St. Joseph's Preparatory School, and restoration work at Eton College and Windsor Castle. They also built Heatherden Hall, Iver Heath, now the Pinewood Studios. (8)

John Bowyer came to Slough from Horfield, Gloucestershire, and set up as a builder at 49, Park Street, where he was joined by his brother, Thomas. John's son, Harry David Bowyer, became the head of H.D. Bowyer in Mackenzie Street, which celebrated its centenary in 1966, (9) but went into liquidation in 1970. (10) Among important works carried out by the firm was the 1912 extensions to St. Mary's parish church, and the building of the spire; the present Methodist Church in The Grove; St. Ethelbert's Presbytery; the Adelphi Cinema, and the Palace Cinema which stood on the site now occupied by the Waitrose Supermarket. Also Suter's, and other shops in Slough, some of which have survived the demolitions necessitated during the building of Queensmere. They also carried out the restoration of the bombed cloisters at Eton College after the 1939-45 war, and much new work in Windsor. (11)

E.T. Bowyer, eldest of the nine children of Thomas, and cousin of H.D. Bowyer, started in business as an auctioneer and estate agent in 1912, in the same year he was elected a Councillor. He became a County Councillor in 1922, and was the Charter Mayor of Slough. He died in 1944. (12)

A very successful newsagents was founded in 1841 at 1, Buckingham Place, by Maria Luff, widow of Charles Luff, innkeeper and Post Master of the White Hart Inn. Maria Luff appears to have been a woman of considerable ability and strength of character, and on the day of her funeral in 1857, all the shops in Slough were shut, as a mark of respect.

Henry James Luff, son of Charles and Maria, established the Printing Works in Buckingham Gardens in 1883, but is known to have done printing work before that date. The Post Office Directory of 1864 lists him as a 'Bookseller and Printer'.

Henry's son, Charles, succeeded to the stationery and printing works, and founded Slough's first newspaper, the Slough Observer, in 1883. It was Charles's brother, Thomas Luff, who kept notes of local interest, which have proved invaluable in the compilation of this history, as they were also to Richard Bentley.

Peter Luff, great-grandson of the founder of the Slough Observer, and a student at the Licensed Victuallers School, is compiling a history of his family, and I am indebted to him for much additional information. Curiously enough, for a family so closely associated with Slough, most of the Luffs were buried in Stoke Poges, although Charles Luff, founder of the Slough Observer, is buried in St. Mary's Churchyard. (13)

The first great industrialists to carry the name of Slough to all parts of the world and all classes of people were the Ellimans. The embrocation was a purely local product. The father of James Elliman, who had been the proprietor of a drapery store, experimented with the embrocation for some years before he finally decided to put it on the market. Its success persuaded Elliman Senior to abandon his drapery store, and to set up a small factory devoted to the manufacture of embrocation. He attributed his success largely to a combination of the excellence of the embrocation, combined with a policy of devoting half of his profits to advertising. He later took both his sons, Samuel and James, into partnership.

It is believed Elliman's Embrocation was first introduced in 1847, but the earliest record is an advertisement published in Bell's Life of London newspaper on 13 January, 1850. It runs:-

'HOW TO WIN A RACE – Use Elliman's Universal Embrocation, for strengthening the legs of horses, also for the care of any strain, cut, bruise, or broken knees, which it cures in a few applications. The proprietor has great confidence in offering the above to the notice of Gentlemen, from the high testimonials he has received on its merits, and feels assured that on trial it will be found the most useful and valuable medicine for the stable ever brought into public notice. Sold in bottles, wholesale and retail, 2s., by Sanger and Co., 150, Oxford Street, London and by most chemists.'

An advertisement in the same paper on 20 October, 1850, embodies a testimonial from the Royal Hunt, which runs:

'Sir, I feel great pleasure in testifying to the successful application of your embrocation for green wounds, the removal of strains and enlargement of horses' legs, etc. Yours truly, Charles Bryant to Mr. James Elliman, Slough'.

The advertisement continues:

'Wholesale Agents, Sanger and Co., Oxford Street, and Barclay and Co., Farringdon Street, in half-pint bottles, 2s. each by all chemists. — Agents wanted in town and country'.

An advertisement of 1864 quotes a number of testimonials, including one from Queensland, Australia; also from Wombwell's Menagerie, then at Newmarket. It also advertises Universal Embrocation for human beings, claiming that it 'cures Rheumatism, Gout, Lumbago, Sprains, Bruises, Sore Throats, Toothache, Chaps, Chilblains, Weak Limbs, etc., applied outwardly. The same as supplied to the Crimean Army, General Garibaldi, etc.'

When James Elliman Senior died in 1870, his son carried on the business, and purchased a site in Slough High Street where a factory and offices were built, beside the house which was the home of the Elliman family for many years. The site was later occupied by Messrs. Lyons & Lyons, Ltd. (No. 183, High Street) a little west of Chandos Street, both of which have disappeared in the building of Queensmere.

Samuel Elliman died in 1884, but James Elliman continued to extend the business, and remained in control until his death in 1924, when the business was taken over by members of the family. Elliman, Sons & Co. Ltd. was acquired by Horlicks Ltd. at the beginning of 1961, but continued to operate under its own name. (14)

The benefactions of James Elliman to Slough commenced in 1887, and were continued with unostentatious generosity to the end of his life. One of his best known and appreciated gifts was the Salt Hill Playing Fields.

Very little seems to be known of the origin of Nixey's once famous blacklead, which was presumably placed on the market before W.G. Nixey bought the Old Vicarage in 1856, (15) and built Springfield House (then popularly known as 'Blacklead Castle', and now Upton Towers). The blacklead was advertised as 'the Servants' Friend', and made a fortune for its inventor.

There is a memorial brass on the west wall of the chancel of Upton Church to W.G. Nixey of Springfield and 12, Soho Square, London, who died on 31 March, 1870. The earliest decipherable epitaph to the Nixeys in Upton churchyard is to Mary Nixey, daughter of John and Elizabeth Nixey, who died in 1794, aged 34. A number of others, ranging in date from 1796 to 1918, include John Nixey, wheelwright, who died in 1812. His shop was on the site in Ivy Parade, now occupied by 390, High Street. A huge and elaborate memorial, crowned with a marble urn, commemorates W.G. Nixey (1812-1870) and his family. W.G. Nixey took a prominent part in the schemes for the re-building of St. Mary's Church.

The dairy founded at the Mill House, Salt Hill, by William Neville in 1857 was bought by E. Griffin in 1899, and re-opened as the Park Dairy at 21, Park Street, on the site now occupied by R.G. McCormick, the newsagent. Four years later, the office removed to 84, High Street (now 136), where it has remained ever since, and the premises in Albert Street became the Upton Dairy.

Mr. George Griffin is still associated with the firm, and members of both families still live and work in and around the town. John and Keith Cook, great-grandsons of William Neville, are farming in Old Windsor. (16)

The Halley family first ran a dairy in 1865, on the site of 274, High Street. A few years later they took over the mineral water manufactory of Woods Brothers in Alpha Street, on the site later occupied by the Slough Dairy. They moved to 25, High Street (later 55, but since demolished) about 1880, and continued there until they sold the business and retired in 1963. (17)

There appears to be no record of the date when W. Pope and Sons established their Gotha Ironworks in Slough, but it is shown in Kelly's Directory for 1864. In 1876, when railway carriages were first lighted by gas, they operated patents for the gas lighting and heating of railway carriages. In 1881, they formed a connection with G.D. Peters & Co., which had been founded at Moorfields, London, for the manufacture of blinds, coil springs and seats for railway carriages. On the death of W. Pope in 1892, the business of W. Pope & Sons became a limited company, and five years later amalgamated with G.D. Peters and its subsidiary companies. The name was changed from Gotha to Windsor Works on the outbreak of the 1914-18 war.

The G.D. Peters Group in the present day comprises some 16 firms, but seats for British Rail, and other railways in all parts of the world, and seats, sliding doors and bus-washers for London Transport are still among their best-known of their many and varied products. (18)

Among other early firms was the once famous Eagle Brewery of Messrs. Tatner, with huge symbolic birds surmounting the pillar entrance to its yard. It stood near the White Hart Hotel, with a frontage on William Street, and did a thriving trade during the coaching era, and during the construction of the Great Western Railway. (19) It is shown on a plan of Slough in 1875, but not on a plan dated 1912.

Older inhabitants of Slough remember the two fine oast-houses on the east side of Alpha Street, occupied by Messrs. Bloxsones, the Maltsters, in the 1920's. They were demolished early in the 1930's when a garage for Green Line coaches was built on the site.

During the coaching era, Charles Worley, a coachbuilder, had a workshop near the White Hart, (20) and carried out any necessary repairs to coaches travelling through Slough.

Herbert & Co., Boot Polish Manufacturers, had a factory in Park Street, which was destroyed by fire in October, 1907; and Duffield & Co. had a well-known lamp factory, which was opened in 1854 on the site now occupied by part of Boots The Chemists (178, High Street), and continued in business until 1900.

Mr. Michael Bayley tells me his great-grandfather, Philip Headington of Manor Farm, Chalvey, and Cippenham Court Farm, established the earliest steam driven mill in Church Street, Slough in the 1870's, which remained in operation until just before the 1939-45 war. Philip Headington's cousin, a Bulstrode, also set up a steam mill in Stoke Road, north of the railway. An unconfirmed family tradition says he had a social conscience far in advance of his time, and handed it over to the workers to run — with the result that the mill went into liquidation.

Philip Headington's son, Ernest William Headington, opened a corn-shop in 1910, at the corner of Mackenzie Street and High Street, where his son, Clifford Philip Headington, was born. Clifford Headington sold the Cippenham Court Farm, which his family had farmed for 84 years, when he moved to Beaconsfield in 1956. He died in 1972, aged 61. He was the last of the male line of the Headingtons of Cippenham Court Farm.

On 8 June, 1905 (Sir) James Horlick bought the 6½ acres of land, then under wheat, on which Horlicks Malted Milk Factory now stands. It was his idea to build a factory in ideal country surroundings, yet in an imposing position beside a main railway route, with all facilities for development. Work on the factory began in 1906, and manufacture commenced in 1908. The original building was designed on such spacious lines that although the business expanded rapidly, the factory sufficed for the Company's needs until 1929, when the first extensions were carried out.

The Horlicks came from an old Gloucestershire family, and the business now known as Horlicks, Ltd., was originated by Sir James and his brother William in 1873. Both were Englishmen, but for business reasons they started by building a small factory at Racine, Wisconsin, for the manufacture of Horlick's Food, and 10 years later commenced manufacturing there the Malted Milk which made the firm world famous. Horlicks was not marketed in England until 1890, which gave rise to the erroneous impression that the produce was originated by Americans. The growing trade in the Home Market, and the Eastern Hemisphere led to the building of the factory at Slough.

Oliver P. Horlick, who was in charge of the works from their inception, died on 23 January, 1960. He was Vice-President of the Company at the time of his death. Other members of the

family carried on the work of the Company, acquiring Elliman's in 1961; Fardon's Vinegar Co. Ltd., of Birmingham, in 1962; and the manufacturing chemist business of Gale, Baiss and Co. Ltd., in 1963. They also marketed Airwick products, and had considerable dairying interests in the West Country, from which source all their milk for the manufacture of Horlicks was drawn. (21)

Horlicks Ltd., which took over Elliman, Sons & Co. Ltd., in 1961, is now part of the Beecham Group, although it still trades under the name of Horlicks. (22)

Naylor Bros. Paints, founded about 1780 in Southall, came to Slough in 1919 and took over the former American Army base. Nobel Chemical Industries, which was founded at Ardeer in Scotland in 1865, came to Slough in 1928 with Naylor's. The Nobel Company was one of the original constituent companies of Imperial Chemical Industries, and both Nobel and Naylor's were incorporated into I.C.I. in 1928. They were first officially called I.C.I. Paints in 1935. (23)

THE TRADING ESTATE

In June 1918 (24) the Government bought up the good agricultural land at the west end of Slough (25), on the north of the Bath road, and established there a vast motor repair depot which became a notorious example of official extravagance under the name of the 'Slough Depot' – or 'Slough Dump'. Work began on the site in July, 1918, (26) and when the war ended, the Slough Motor Repair Depot was still under construction. The need for this depot was still very great, however, as it had been decided that all army transport should be brought back from service abroad, and repaired, prior to sale, so that the vehicles could be sold for more than scrap prices, and at the suggestion of General Smuts, they were sent to the Slough Depot.

In April, 1920, the Government Surplus Disposal Board sold the Depot and its contents to a company called the Slough Trading Co. Ltd., at a total cost of over seven million pounds, the purchase including all British Transport surplus to requirements throughout the world. Sir Percival Perry (later Lord Perry), Chairman of the Ford Motor Company originated the idea of the purchase, and Mr. Noel Mobbs (who was knighted in 1948), was put in charge. Up to 8,000 people were employed there, equal then to about half the population of Slough.

By 1925 the original task of the disposal of vehicles and spares had been completed. It was decided to continue the development of the buildings and land available by letting factories to companies, and the Trading Estate idea, as we know it today, was born.

The Royal Assent was given to the Slough Trading Company Act, 1925 on 7 August of that year. It authorized the Company to build roads, lay water mains, steam pipes, electricity cables and drains. In June, 1926, the name was changed to Slough Estates, Ltd., as this described the Company's activities more accurately.

The founders of the Slough Trading Estate were social innovators, as well as business builders. The pioneer industrial community set a pattern which many have copied, and which is now one of the largest undertakings of its kind in the world.

There was considerable expansion between 1925 and 1927, and it was during this time that the Government opened a Training Centre for a number of trades on the Estate, and this Training establishment still provides training and skilled craftsmen for industry, including those needing to be taught a new trade following an accident or ill health. Since that time, apart from a slight set back during the slump period of the early 1930's, there has been constant expansion.

In 1931, the Company acquired 55 acres of partly developed land at Birmingham, and a third English site, the 22 acres Greenford Estate near London, was bought in 1945. In the same year the Company, at the request of the Government, and as their Agents, developed a new Trading Estate at Swansea, which became the responsibility of the Wales and Industrial Estates Ltd., in 1950, and is now the Welsh Industrial Estates Corporation.

Slough Estates Ltd. developed an estate in the North of England, near Wakefield, in 1968, and in 1969 acquired the Industrial estates at Hertford, Bishop's Stortford and Braintree. Activities were extended Overseas in 1949, when a large tract of land was bought near Melbourne, Australia. Subsequently, sites were acquired near Toronto, Canada, and between Antwerp and Ghent, Belgium, in the heart of the Common Market.

Work has begun recently on estates at Aylesbury, Yate and High Wycombe.

There are now over 330 manufacturers on the Slough Trading Estate, employing about 28,000 people. (27)

THE COMMUNITY CENTRE

The most famous of all the developments in connection with the Trading Estate is, of course, the Community Centre, opened in 1937. It was initiated in 1936 by (Sir) Noel Mobbs, then Chairman of Slough Estates Ltd., supported by several leading manufacturers, and with the assistance and sympathy of the Buckinghamshire County Council and the Slough Council. Founded to provide recreational facilities contributing to health and physical well-being, and to foster all forms of social, educational and cultural interests, it now has 5,000 members and over 150 different activities.

In 1947, with the initial help of the Nuffield Foundation and Nuffield Health and Social Service Fund, and many manufacturers, the Slough Industrial Health Service was set up in a building within the precincts of the Community Centre. It includes a Central Clinic and a Social Service Department.

The Community Centre Association provides office accommodation for a number of bodies, including the Slough Council of Social Service, the Slough Arts Festival and the Citizens' Advice Bureau. Sixty acres of park provide facilities for many forms of sport.

The Community Centre was the first of its kind in the world, and in the year of its opening was visited by the late Queen Mary, and King George VI, Queen Elizabeth (now the Queen Mother), and by industrialists and Social workers from the United States and other industrialized countries. It is still honoured by visits from the Royal family from time to time, and still attracts visitors from all over the world.

Another Community Centre was opened at the Upton Lea Housing estate in 1943. (28)

EARLY SLOUGH SHOPS

Nothing is known of Slough shops before the 19th century, but from 1812 onwards many new shops were opened, particularly from 1850 onwards, a few of which have survived to the present day, and nearly all of which were very well known between the two World Wars. Their story would be well worth telling. Some are mentioned elsewhere in this History, and some brief details of others are given below, but they offer a wide and fascinating field for further research.

Charles Knight (29) gives a tantalizingly brief glimpse of a Slough apothecary and his shop about 1807. When Knight was 16 or 17 years old, he used to hunt for books, and 'to talk with gusto to an old apothecary at Slough about Black Letter treasures, this was a pursuit which weaned me from many of my idle reveries . . . The remembrance of that worthy book collector of the then small village of Slough, fills me, even now, with a sort of pride at the honour of being regarded by him with a feeling that we were fellow travellers upon the same road — he with his large experience and superb acquisitions, I with my newly-developed bibliomania and small store of treasures. Often have I peeped into his little shop on the highroad — strong in many odours among which rhubarb prevailed . . . How well do I recollect the glow of his honest face as he placed before me a Wynkyn de Worde, torn and dirty, but nevertheless a fit companion for the imperfect Caxton on his most sacred shelf. Missals he had and Early English Bibles . . .'

Unfortunately, Charles Knight does not mention the apothecary's name, but it is possible he was the John Peckham 'chemist and druggist', who issued his own Trade Tokens in 1785. (30) He (or possibly a son of the same name) is said to have been in practice still in 1830, and to have had a collection of coins which he sold to a dealer, and of which spurious copies were made later by William Joseph Taylor, a die-sinker. (31)

Miss Mason's *Walk Round Slough* does not mention Peckham, but she does not mention all the Slough shops in 1830 by name. Nor does she give all the shops in Slough in 1896, when she wrote her account, as a comparison with Street Directories shows. They list many more shops and businesses than those given by Miss Mason.

From 1840 onwards, the number of shops increased steadily. In 1848, Joseph Bateman, Butcher, 'opposite the White Hart Inn', advertised in the Royal Windsor Guide that he 'Begs to return his most grateful thanks to the Nobility, Gentry and Inhabitants of Slough and the neighbourhood, for the liberal support he has been favoured with; he assures them, and the public generally, together with those families about to take up residence in this admired and improving district, that it will be his constant study to merit their future patronage, by supplying none but the first quality of meat (for which this part of the country is so celebrated) and by paying strict attention to all orders with which he may be favoured'. This Joseph Bateman may have been an ancestor of R.W. and G.B. Bateman, of the well-known furnishers, A. Bateman, which was established in 1889 as a cabinet-maker and undertakers at 22, William Street, where both R.W. and G.B. Bateman were born. When the Council bought the premises in connection with the Wellington Street extensions, the firm removed a few doors away to 36-38, William Street. (32)

A few of the shops founded between 1850 and 1860 are still in business, and others survived until recently. Several were Royal Warrant holders, among whom John Harding & Sons, pork butchers, poulterers and fishmongers, founded in 1850, may be mentioned. In the days when pork butchers still made their own sausages from family recipes, Harding's sausages were so much favoured by Edward VII that they had to send supplies for the royal breakfast whether the king was at Windsor, Sandringham or Balmoral. Harding's had branch shops in Farnham Common and Stoke Poges, and their progressiveness is illustrated by their telephone numbers: Slough 1; Farnham Common 1; and Stoke Poges 1. The shops were closed when John Harding retired in 1838, but his two sons are still living in Iver, and Mr. John Harding is Chairman of the Slough and District Civic Society. (33)

Other early shops have interesting stories behind them, and it is to be regretted that lack of space prevents a detailed account of them all, and particularly those whose names are still familiar in the present day.

An attempt was made in July, 1866 to establish a Co-operative Store in Slough, when the Windsor Co-operative Society opened a branch shop, (34) but it did not last long, and Slough had to wait until 1895 before a second attempt was made. A meeting was held in the Church House, Slough on 5 December, 1895, in spite of considerable opposition from local tradesmen, who attempted vainly to dissuade the Rector, the Rev. H. Savill Young, from presiding over it. (35)

The first subscribers attended a temporary office in William Street on 12 December, and paid subscriptions totalling £19. 12s. 6d. Registration of the Society took place on 2 January, 1892, and the first shop was opened in High Street on the 15 April following. The first meeting was held in the Leopold Coffee House, when John Bishop was elected President, H. Wilder, Secretary and Messrs. E. Cornish, T. Templeman, J. Singer, A. Boulter, A. Figures, F. Cherrill, F. Alleway, J. Beresford, Committee Members. (36)

Fortunately for these pioneers, with their tiny capital, shop hours were long, and assistants poorly paid in those days. A 72 hour week was worked, with the shop opening at 7.30 a.m. and remaining open until 8 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays; 2 p.m. on Wednesdays; 9 p.m. on Fridays and 10 p.m. on Saturdays. (37) The Manager received only 27s. a week, with rooms over the shop. Assistants were paid 17s. a week, and apprentices 4s. in the first year, 5s. in the second year, and 6s. in the third and last year. The first errand boy received only 7s. a week, and his successors rarely stayed long, although the wage was gradually increased to 11s. a week by 1894.

The shop next door was taken in 1894, and the number and scope of the departments multiplied, and in 1895 the premises were bought for £1,800. (38)

The Society continued to grow and to expand its services, and branches were opened in Stoke Road (1904); Chalvey Road West (1907), (39) Langley High Street (1917), (40) Cippenham (41) and Farnham Road (1930) (42); Manor Park (1933) (43), Wexham Road (1939) and Bath Road, Salt Hill (1938). (44)

Rebuilding and extensions to the original shop took place from time to time, and the present building was begun in 1962, at an estimated cost of £200,000. (45) The Slough Co-operative Society was taken over by the Royal Arsenal Co-operative Society in June 1968. Today the Slough area has 38,000 members. (46)

Co-operators were debarred from election to local Councils for many years, but in 1919, W.J. Templeman was elected to the Slough Urban District Council, of which he was Chairman 1924-25, (47) Alderman 1938, and first Deputy Mayor of the Borough of Slough. (48) He was President of the Co-operative Society from 1930 until his death in 1941. The Co-operative Society made a gift to the Council of the chain and pendant for the Deputy Mayor. (49)

A.J. Frenchum, who succeeded Alderman Templeman as President of the Co-operative Society, was elected to the Urban District Council in 1933, and was Chairman in 1938, when Slough was granted its Charter. (50) He was Mayor of Slough 1945-46, and again 1967-68.

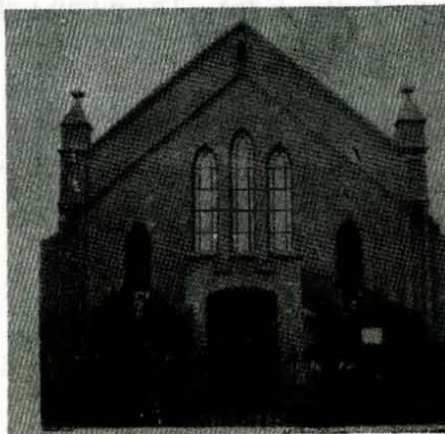
THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Slough shopkeepers founded a Chamber of Commerce in 1915 'to watch over the trade of the district and to take such active measures for the promotion and protection thereof as may be considered advisable'. The promoters invited the assistance of the Co-operative Society, who then owned the biggest grocery store in the town, to assist in formulating the constitution. Mr. W.H. Bigg was appointed as the Co-operative representative, and joined with others in drawing up the rules of the Chamber of Commerce. Five shillings was sent as the Co-operative Society's subscription, but the executive of the new Chamber returned it, rejecting the membership of the Co-operative Society ! (51) However, in 1938, during the Charter Celebrations, the Chamber of Commerce relented and invited the Co-operative Society to become a member. (52) This Chamber of Commerce was re-formed in 1942, (53) and out of the newly-constituted body the present Chamber of Commerce and Industry was formed in 1949. (54)

NOTES

1. Slough Observer, 3 July, 1936.
2. Phipps, p. 44.
3. Miss Constance E. Morten, *My Recollections of Slough*, N.B.M.T., Vol. 2, No. 11, Spring 1968, p.4; V.C.H., Vol. 2., p.114.
4. Information kindly supplied by the London Ballast Co.
5. I am indebted to Mr. Edward Sargeant, and Mr. E.J. Davis, Bucks County Archivist, for this information.
6. Lovegroves also had a chair manufactory, of which a photograph can be seen in the Slough Public Library.
7. I am indebted to Mr. Gilbert Lidstone for this information.
8. I am indebted to Mr. Light, of John Deverill, Ltd., for this information.
9. Slough Observer, 23 December, 1966.
10. *ibid.*, 10 April, 1970.
11. *ibid.*, 8 September, 1944.
12. Information supplied by members of the Bowyer family.
13. I am indebted to Mr. Peter Luff, and Mr. William T.M. Luff for this information.
14. This information was originally supplied by Ellimans, and has since been brought up to date by Mr. Dafforn, of the Beecham Group.
15. Phipps, p. 53.
16. Information kindly given to me by Mr. George Griffin, and Mrs. Cook, Senior, daughter of William Neville.
17. I am indebted to Mr. Halley for this information.
18. Information kindly supplied by Mr. C. Pestell, Publicity Manager, G.D. Peters.
19. Bentley, Inns, p. 19.
20. *ibid.*, p. 18.
21. Information supplied by Mr. H.F. Chilton, Horlicks, Ltd.,
22. I am indebted to Mr. Dafforn, of the Beecham Group, for this information.
23. I am indebted to Mr. P.F. Lawrence, Publicity Manager, I.C.I. Paints Division, for this information
24. The proposal was debated in the House of Commons on 12 June, 1918.
25. The Times, 15 June, 1918, reported that 664 acres were to be acquired, made up of 343 acres of Headington's land; 157 acres from Adams; 80 from Purser, 44 from Atkins, and 40 from Aitken.

26. Hut sections were dumped near Farnham Road Bridge on 9 June, and by 12 June, 100 men were employed – Richard Halliday's notes.
27. Information from material kindly supplied by Mr. F.H. Jones, Slough Estates, Ltd.
28. Information from material kindly supplied by Mr. A.T. Carr, the first Warden, and Mr. Scott of the Community Association.
29. Charles Knight, *Passages in a Working Life During Half-a-Century (1864-65)*, p. 78-79, Charles Knight was joint founder with his father of The Windsor Express.
30. Dalton & Hamer's *Provincial Token Coinage of the 18th Century* (reprinted 1967) p.4. I am indebted to Mr. C.N. Gowing, Curator of the Bucks County Museum, for drawing my attention to this standard work on Trade Tokens.
31. Mrs. Maud Jervis, *Trade Tokens, N.B.M.T., Vol. 3, No. 17, December, 1972*, p. 121.
32. Information kindly supplied by Mr. R.W. Bateman.
33. Personal knowledge, confirmed by Mr. John Harding.
34. W. Henry Brown, *The Co-operative Advance in Slough, 1892-1924, The Jubilee History of the Slough and District Co-operative Society Ltd.*, p. 67. I am much indebted to Mr. R.F. Denington for lending me his copy of this invaluable booklet, my own copy having been 'borrowed' years ago, and not returned. Mr. Denington has himself written an article on *The Early Years of Slough Co-op*, published in *N.B.M.T., Vol. 3, No. 17, December, 1972*, pp. 113-115. There is a copy of the Jubilee History in Slough Public Library.
35. Brown, op. cit. p. 10.
36. *ibid.*, p. 11.
37. *ibid.*, p. 13-14.
38. *ibid.*, p. 16.
39. *ibid.*, p. 25.
40. *ibid.*, p. 31.
41. *ibid.*, p. 41.
42. *ibid.*, p. 44.
43. *ibid.*, p. 47.
44. *ibid.*, p. 51.
45. *Slough Observer*, 30 November, 1962.
46. I am indebted to Mr. G. Horsfall, Store Manager, Slough & District Co-op, for this information.
47. Brown, op. cit., p. 38-39.
48. *ibid.*, p. 56.
49. *ibid.*, p. 39.
50. *ibid.*, p. 56.
51. *ibid.*, p. 29.
52. *ibid.*, p. 40.
53. I am indebted for this information to Mr. J.K. Hewett, who retired as Superintendent Registrar of Slough and District in September, 1971.
54. I am indebted to Mr. John Peck, Secretary of the Slough Chamber of Commerce and Industry, for this information.



37. *The Wesleyan Chapel, Herschel Street*