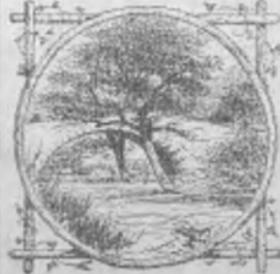


THE 

Working Lads' Institute



AND *MOME*,

Whitechapel, London, E.

*ANNUAL REPORT, 1898.*

# Working Lads' Institute and Home, WHITECHAPEL, LONDON, E.

ESTABLISHED 1876.

Patron:—HER MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY THE QUEEN.

President:—THE RIGHT HON. THE LORD MAYOR.

Trustees: Revs. W. Goodman, J. Smith, H. B. Kendall, B.A., and T. Mitchell.

## Committee and Officers.

F. A. BEVAN, Esq., D.L., 54, Lombard St., E.C., <i>Treasurer.</i>	GEORGE NOKES, Esq., 103, Bishop's Road, E.
THOS. GARLAND, Esq., 58, Clement's Street, E.	E. C. RAWLINGS, Esq., 2, Walbrook, E.C.
HENRY HILL, Esq., 38, Bow Lane, E.C., <i>Founder</i>	JAMES WOOD, Esq., 33, Devonshire Road, N.E.
C. R. MAYNARD, Esq., "Dawlish," Northfield Road, N	REV THOMAS JACKSON, 279, Whitechapel Road, E.
R. C. MORGAN, Esq., 12, Paternoster Buildings, E.C.	<i>Superintendent and Hon. Sec.</i>

Auditor: A. E. TURBERVILLE, Esq., Chartered Accountant, 15, Queen Street, E.C.

Bankers: MESSRS. BARCLAY & Co. LTD., 54, Lombard Street, E.C.

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*The Quarterly Meetings of the Committee are held at the Office of the Institute, 279, Whitechapel Road, E.  
the First Friday in January, April, July, and October, at 5.30, p.m.*



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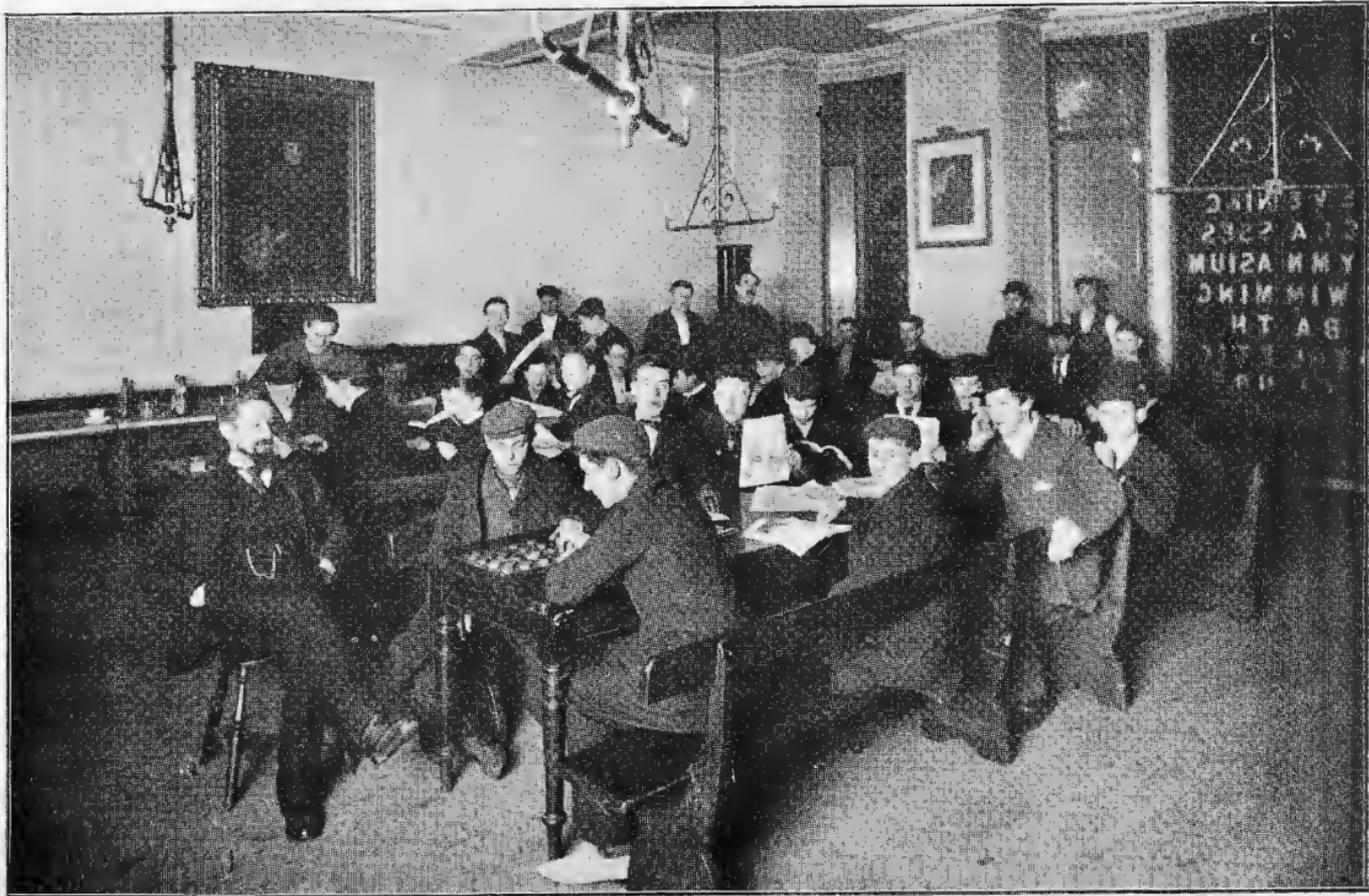
THE Committee of THE WORKING LADS' INSTITUTE AND HOME, in presenting this Report, desire to express their pleasure at the presence of Mr. Alderman and Sheriff Allston as Chairman of the Annual Meeting. The City of London, which is so worthily represented on this occasion by our Chairman, has been identified with our Institute during the past twenty-two years. It was at a Public Meeting held at the Mansion House in 1876, under the presidency of the then Lord Mayor (Sir W J R. Cotton) that the Institute was inaugurated, and each subsequent year the Lord Mayor has been (ex-officio) President. For the erection of the Institute's splendid premises, and for the maintenance of the work that has been carried on during the past twenty-two years in

connection therewith, the Committee have been largely indebted to the benevolence of the City. The late Sir Robert W. Carden and the late Sir R. N. Fowler were among the liberal subscribers to the Building Fund, and the Corporation have on three occasions made liberal grants. Our beautiful Swimming Bath, which during the summer months is so great a boon to the young people of the district, was largely helped during its erection by the Mansion House Unemployed Relief Fund. The generous recognition and support rendered by the City to the Institute in the past have been a stimulus and encouragement to the Committee, and considering that a large proportion of its members are employed and earn their living there, it is hoped that such recognition and support will be continued.

The work of the past year has been of a varied, arduous, yet encouraging character. The primary object for which the Institute was founded, namely, to provide for the working lads of Whitechapel and the East End an alternative and counter-attraction to the low music halls and public houses, has been kept constantly before the Committee in the operations of the past year.

### **The Reading Room.**

The Reading Room has been open each evening (Sundays excepted) from 6 to 10 o'clock. An ample supply of newspapers, illustrated papers, and magazines is provided, and we are pleased to state well used by the members. There is also a **Library**, containing upwards of



WORKING LADS' INSTITUTE READING ROOM.

600 volumes, for the use of the members; more books are much needed. **Games** are provided for the members,—such as billiards, bagatelle, chess, draughts, and others, but no billing or gambling in any form is permitted.

### **The Refreshment Bar.**

The Refreshment Bar supplies simple refreshments at a small charge to the members, and is much appreciated by them. The members are made to feel that there is a HOME as well as a club element in their association with the Institute, and to those who have knowledge of the domestic deprivations and discomforts of some of the homes of our members, and of the uninviting lodgings the poverty of others compel them to put up with, it will at once be apparent that this home element at our Institute is both a necessity and a great boon. The number of boys attending the Board Schools within an area of one square mile of the Institute is stated to be upwards of 17,000. The number of these boys annually leaving school is estimated at 600. These lads need a resort at night after the toil of the day, and if a good one, with bright, healthy, elevating associations is not provided and rendered accessible to them, then it should occasion little surprise if they find and frequent a bad one. That the youths appreciate the advantages this Institute offers is illustrated by the fact that they have during this year contributed of their very limited means, in various ways, the sum of £78/17/4. While all members who can are required to pay the small monthly subscription of sixpence, yet we do not allow the poverty of a lad to deprive him of the privilege of membership. If through want of employment or sickness any member is



THE INSTITUTE GYMNASIUM, WEEKLY DRILL, (NO. 1).

unable to pay, then payment of the subscription is not enforced. We seek by means of our **Employment Agency** to assist boys to obtain situations, and in connection with this agency, have had placed on boards at the entrance of the Institute, each morning during the year, the *Daily Chronicle* advertisements. This board has rendered useful service to many persons. The lads are encouraged to form habits of thrift and providence, hence we have a **Penny Bank**.

### **The Evening Classes.**

The work of the Evening Classes last session was adversely affected by the irregular attendance of the members, which was occasioned in some instances by the precarious demands of their employment upon their time. The class rooms were used by the authorities of the Eastern District Post Office, two evenings per week during the last winter's session, and some 100 youths, who are employed in the Postal and Telegraph departments, attended for instruction.

### **The Gymnasium.**

The Gymnasium has been open each week during the year; and in addition to the "Drill Night," when the Instructor (Mr. D'Arcy Brennan) attended, the members have used it on other nights of the week for practice. This branch of the Institute's work is not only very popular with the members, but affords them a physical training that is of the greatest benefit to them, the improvement in the physique of some of the youths being most



THE INSTITUTE GYMNASIUM, WEEKLY DRILL, (NO 2.)

striking. The weekly drill and display is open to the public, and the large numbers who frequently crowd the gallery to witness it, prove that it is of an interesting character. By this arrangement, pleasing entertainment is afforded during the year to thousands of the poor lads and others of the East End.

### **The Swimming Bath.**

The Swimming Bath was used during the past summer by upwards of 8,000 bathers (chiefly lads); and in addition to these the children attending the Board Schools of the district, to the number of 4,814, also used the Bath. While members of the Institute have special privileges in using the Bath, the committee have been able to extend the privileges by opening the Bath to the public of East London and the children attending Board Schools.

The "bodily exercise," which "profiteth a little," has been considered and promoted by the **Football, Cricket, and Harriers' Clubs**. These clubs are (it is scarcely needful to state) popular with the members. By means of **Temperance Meetings, Lectures, Concerts, Lantern Exhibitions,** and other meetings, the moral welfare of the members have been considered. **A Brass Band** has been formed, and meets weekly for practice, under the conductorship of Mr. Perry. **The Mandoline Class** is taught by Mr. Webber, and had a successful session last winter, and promises to have an equally successful one this winter. Several "At Home" gatherings have been held for the members, and the Annual Excursion to Hampton Court, last August, was a most enjoyable one to all who took part in it.