

THE CITY OF BIRMINGHAM BATHS DEPARTMENT 1851-1951

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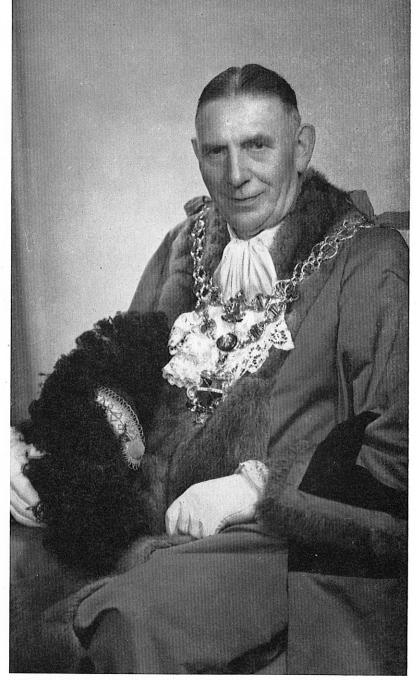
1851-1951



An illustrated outline of the growth of the City of Birmingham Baths Department during the past one hundred years.

Written and compiled by J. Moth, M.N.A.B.S., Birmingham—1951





The Right Worshipful The Lord Mayor of Birmingham Mr. Alderman A. Paddon Smith, J.P.

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BATHS DEPARTMENT CENTENARY

The growth of Birmingham in the past century has been so rapid that we can boast of few institutions or even buildings that can claim to be a hundred years old.

It is only when one studies a contemporary picture of Birmingham in the earlier years of the nineteenth century that one can realise the importance at that time of the introduction of what would be regarded as a novel and indeed outstanding event.

Today we are accustomed to so many public services in our normal life that it is difficult to picture the town without them.

The first public baths in Birmingham opened in 1851 would, at that time, rank with the new Town Hall built but fifteen years before and the Market Hall.

Birmingham's incorporation as a Borough in 1838 undoubtedly provided the impetus to the provision of new and essential services for the very rapidly increasing population, and it is easy to see how great a boon were the Kent Street Baths.

The growth of our Baths Department and the excellence of the facilities now afforded are well known, and I hope that the next century of the Department's activities will prove to be even more remarkable and valuable than those of the present century.

A. Paddon Smith

Lord Mayor



Mr. Alderman James Williams, Chairman Baths Committee

BATHS COMMITTEE

1950-51

The Right Worshipful The Lord Mayor of Birmingham, Alderman A. Paddon Smith, J.P.

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Mr. Councillor H. Small

The Town Clerk, J. F. Gregg, Esq., LL.M.

General Manager and Secretary, J. Moth, Esq., M.N.A.B.S.

Clerk to the Baths Committee, W. Pearson, Esq.



J. Moth, M.N.A.B.S., General Manager and Secretary

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EARLY DAYS

The history of Public Baths in this country, commences with the introduction of an 'Act to encourage the Establishment of Public Baths and Wash-houses', which received the Royal Assent on the 26th August, 1846, and empowered a local authority to incur expenditure in erecting Public Baths out of its own funds.

Prior to this Act, a few towns had provided limited washing bath facilities for poor persons, within the powers of local Acts, but, generally speaking, bathing establishments were privately owned and exclusive to those only with leisure and money to spare.

William West's 'Topography of Warwickshire', published in 1830, includes the following description of Birmingham's privately-owned baths:—

Strangers can have no idea of the advantage which Birmingham possesses with regard to its Baths and we believe that thousands of its inhabitants that have arrived at the Meridian of life are not acquainted with their arrangement and extent.

In William Hutton's day they were seven in number and cost nearly £2,000; there are now ten.

The additions of the new and the improvements to the old Baths have, since they came into the possession of Mr. Monro, cost upwards of £2,000.

They are upon an extensive plan of comfort and accommodation and bountifully supplied with the purest of water; the Ladies' Bath is laid with Marble and has an excellent dressing room adjoining.

The second and third Baths were used for Gentlemen, each fitted up with a dressing room, or private boxes; these baths were supplied with cold water only. The third bath was about 15ft. 6in. square by 4ft. 6in. in depth and was supplied with about 650 gallons of fresh spring water per hour.

The fourth Bath was a large Swimming Bath over 100ft. long and 50ft. wide, the depth graduating from 3ft. to 5ft.; this bath was also supplied with fresh water at the rate of 50,000 gallons per hour, from the Ladywell and other springs. It was surrounded with high walls and situated in the centre of a well-planted garden and the platform steps and other conveniences for bathing were so well constructed as to make it unequalled in any Inland Town in the Kingdom.

The fifth Bath was supplied with hot and cold water and kept at a temperature of about 82 degrees Fah.

The sixth, or Hot Bath, was cased with fine veined marble and supplied with hot and cold water, and the heat could be increased or decreased at pleasure to resemble the Baths at Bath, Buxton and Matlock. This Bath was considered a great acquisition to the town.

The Ladies' Cold Bath and dressing rooms were a distinct and separate building; there was also a separate bath for Jews, constructed on the plan laid down by the High Priest and the showers baths were regulated upon a new and improved principle.

There were other Baths supplied with Artificial water of Harrogate, Leamington and Cheltenham, also Sulphine, Aromatic, Tropical and Fumugating or Vapour baths, specially fitted up for Invalids, the water being brought to a level with the dressing room and bedrooms and private apartments were provided for their accommodation.

The dwelling house of the proprietor was erected and fitted up in a handsome style adjoining the Establishment, the whole of which was not only highly creditable to the proprietor but invaluable to those who used them.

Twenty years later, we find Mr. Monro and others still active in providing the inhabitants of Birmingham with those excellent facilities described by William West, as will be seen from the reproduced advertisements in the Birmingham Journal of the 17th May, 1851

The Public Baths and Wash-houses Act of 1846 was introduced as the result of agitation over a period of years for

in the Gardens are now completed. The extensive Garden, numerous Arbours, splendid Bowling Green, and short distance from Birmingham, Arbours, splendid Bowling Green, and short distance from Birmingham, render it a desirable and agreeable spot for RURAL FETES, DINNER, GIPSY, and TEA PARTIES. Gentlemen giving their Workpeople a treat, Lodges, Clubs, &c., will find every convenience, with the best attention, and on the lowest scale of charges: and any Party may provide their own Provisions, which can readily be cooked at the House.

QUOITS, SKITTLES, and other AMUSEMENTS.

WINES, SPIRITS, ALE, CIGARS, &c., of First-rate Quality.

PRIVATE PARTIES ACCOMMODATED. 5186

LADYWELL BATHS, BIRMINGHAM.

THE LADYWELL BATHS have been thoroughly repaired. The Pleasure Swimming Bath contains about two thousand Hogsheads, supplied from springs of beautiful soft Water which constantly flows through the Bath.

WARM, COLD PLUNGING, COLD and WARM SHOWER BATHS, are always ready on the shortest notice.

Ladies and Gentlemen will be waited upon by respectable and obliging Attendants.

Subscription Tickets to any of the Baths may be obtained at the Ladywell Baths, near Hurst Street, Birmingham. May 7, 1851.

SULPHUREOUS, FUMIGATING, AND MEDICATED VAPOUR BATHS.

VAPOUR BATHS.

R. MONRO begs to inform the Ladies and Gentlemen of Birmingham and its vicinity, that he has REMOVED his BATHS from LADY WELL, to

135, SNOW HILL, (near Bull Street.)

They have excited much astonishment when all other means of relief have failed, particularly in the following complaints, viz., Scurvy, Scrofula, and all Discases of the Skin, Chronic Rheumatism. Rheumatic Gout, great Weaknesses, and Debilitated Constitutions; Diabetes and all Nervous Complaints; Palsy, and early stages of the Dropsy; Glandular and other Swellings and Contractions, together with many other Disorders that arise from obstructed perspirations; inflammation in the extremities or joints, reduced in a few days. Those who have lain in damp beds will find these Baths a sovereign remedy.

The utility of these Baths (if administered with judgment,) is obvious in all internal inflammation, for it draws a great quantity of blood to the surface, and relieves the internal parts by the secretion of the skin, which is the mode Nature takes to resolve inflammations and fevers.

BALSALL HEATH BATHS.

BALSALL HEATH BATHS.

OHN SMITH, Proprietor, begs to inform his Friends and the Public generally, that his BATHS are NOW OPEN for the Season, being plentifully supplied with Pure Spring to merit a continuance of their kind support.

Balsall Heath, May 9th, 1851.

5275

IMPORTANT TO THOSE REQUIRING ARTIFICIAL

A S most Persons are under the impression that they must suffer great pain and inconvenience by the removal of Teeth and Stumps, and other painful operations, before they can be supplied with Artificial Teeth, Mr. ESKELL, SURGEON DENTIST, of 3, BENNETT'S HILL, BIRMINGHAM, feels it incumbent on himself to remove that error, so far as relates to his system, which entirely OBVIATES the necessity of any painful operation whatever, and is

Private Bath Advertisements-'The Birmingham Journal', 17th May, 1851

the provision of bathing establishments by the local authority and in the absence of such powers in Birmingham, its citizens had already explored the possibilities of erecting a public baths by voluntary effort.

At a Public Meeting on the 19th November, 1844, a Committee, or as it was afterwards called, the 'Public Baths Association', was formed. A fund was opened and within a week, £4,000 had been subscribed.

On the 22nd and 23rd April, 1845, two lectures were delivered in the Town Hall, stressing the importance of public health and the necessity for the provision of public baths in Birmingham and other large towns. It is recorded that although the attendance of the general public at these lectures was not numerous 'the persons present were highly respectable' and the meetings gave further stimulus to the objects of the Public Baths Association.

The Association held a second Public Meeting on the 15th June, 1845, during which it was proposed to purchase a piece of land at the corner of Kent Street and Gooch Street. This purchase was effected on the 24th June, 1846, out of the accumulated funds which had then reached a total of £6,102 10s.

Three months later, at its meeting on the 7th October, 1846, the Town Council adopted the Public Baths and Washhouses Act, and at a meeting of the Public Baths Association in November, it was resolved

That as the Town Council has the matter in hand the land acquired by the Association should be transferred to that body.

It was not until the 2nd October, 1848, however, that the Council gave their sanction for the erection of the first Baths and Wash-houses, on the site selected by the Association in Kent Street.

DANIEL LEDSAM, M.A.) Hon. WILLIAM HARE, BOROUGH OF BIRMINGHAM. PUBLIC BATHS AND WASH-HOUSES. TOTICE is hereby given, that the BATHS and WASH-HOUSES, situated in Kent-street, Bromsgrove-street, will be OPENED to the Public for BATHING and WASHING, THIS PRESENT MONDAY, May 12.

The Baths will be open daily until the 1st of October next, at Six o'clock in the morning until Nine o'clock at night; and from the 1st day of October to the 1st of April, at Seven o'clock in the morning to Eight o'clock at night, Sundays excepted. During the same periods the Baths will be opened on Sundays, from Six to Nine in the morning. The Wash-houses will be open daily, Sundays excepted, from Seven o'clock in the morning to Eight o'clock at night. The charges for the use of the Baths are-FIRST CLASS. Private Warm Bath, each person 6 Private Cold Bath Two Children, not above eight years old, to be allowed to use the same Bath-room at the same charge as one Adult person. SECOND CLASS. d. Private Warm Bath, each person 3 Private Cold Bath 1 Two Children, not above eight years old, to be allowed to use the same Bath-room at the same charge as one Adult PUBLIC SWIMMING BATH, with use of Dressing-room 3 Ditto, without use of Dressing-room 2 FOR THE USE OF THE WASH-HOUSES. For every half hour after the first hour 1 By order of the Council, S. BRAY, Town Clerk. 20, Temple-street, May 12, 1851. SUTTON COLDFIELD PROTECTION SOCIETY. GENERAL MEETING of the MEMBERS of this SOCIETY will be held on WEDNESDAY NEXT, May

Church.

THE ESTABLISHMENTS

KENT STREET BATHS

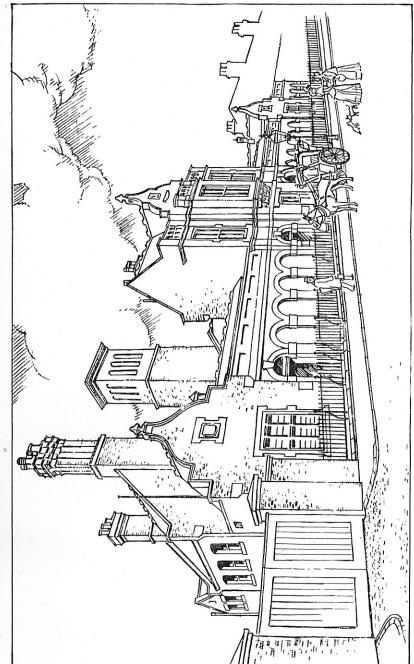
Kent Street, as one of the City's shorter thoroughfares, would be unknown today save to its few residents and those living in the immediate neighbourhood, but for the fact that on a site selected there as far back as 1845, the Town Council, in 1848, decided to erect Birmingham's first Public Bathing Establishment.

During the past hundred years, Kent Street has become established in the minds of succeeding generations of the people of Birmingham and its countless visitors as a centre which has an unequalled reputation for the facilities it offers.

The foundation stone of Birmingham's first Public Baths at Kent Street was laid on the 29th October, 1849 and the building, although not completed, was opened to the public on the 12th May, 1851.

The site was in close proximity to the centre of the town and it was known that an ample supply of water could be obtained from the many underground springs in the neighbourhood. Indeed, these springs were to prove a source of great inconvenience to the builders who experienced difficulty in keeping water out of the trenches prepared for the foundations of the building and the construction of the swimming baths, with the result that considerable extra expense was incurred and the total cost of the site and buildings by the time the establishment was completed in 1852 was £23,000.

The design of the building was in the sixteenth century style of architecture and of red brick with bath stone dressings, moulded string courses and coping; the window sills, mullions and transoms, were also of stone with cast-iron window frames and casements.



Birmingham's First Public Baths at Kent Street—Opened 12th May, 1851

The accommodation is described as comprising 'sixtynine private hot and cold water baths, two large swimming baths, three plunge baths and a public wash-house with laundry fitted up with twentyfive washing stalls and two sets of seventeen drying horses and other appliances'.

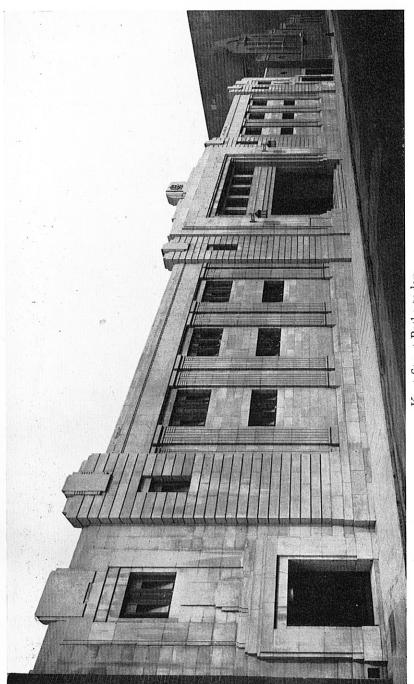
This is the only description there is of the original accommodation at Birmingham's first Baths, but we learn that in 1897, after many alterations and additions had been made, the facilities included First and Second Class Swimming and Private Baths for Men, Women's First and Second Class Private Baths, Turkish Baths and a Central Mechanical Laundry and Offices.

Later, a Women's Swimming Baths and suites of Private Baths for Women were constructed on a site in Gooch Street adjoining the main buildings and opened on the 30th March, 1914.

In 1930, the old Kent Street Baths, with the exception of the Women's Bath in Gooch Street, was demolished and the present Kent Street Baths was constructed, comprising a Gala Swimming Bath, suites of Private Baths, Turkish and Russian Baths, Administrative Offices and a Repair and Maintenance Depot, and opened on the 29th May, 1933.

On the 3rd December, 1940, the Department suffered a great loss, when during a heavy night raid, the Gala Bath, which had become the most popular Bath in the City, was destroyed by enemy action and a great deal of damage to the remaining property was sustained.

The Baths Committee are at present dealing with the future of the Kent Street site, but we may be assured that whatever the ultimate decision, Kent Street and the Baths will continue their historic association.



Kent Street Baths today

WOODCOCK STREET BATHS

At a meeting of the Council on the 28th September, 1852, the Baths Committee were instructed to 'consider the advisability of providing a second suite of baths in the town' and the district selected was that of the Duddeston Ward or in its immediate neighbourhood.

A site for this purpose situated between Woodcock Street and Duke Street was finally chosen and in due course the foundation stone of the Woodcock Street Baths was laid on the 25th July, 1859 and on the 27th August, 1860, the buildings were opened to the public.

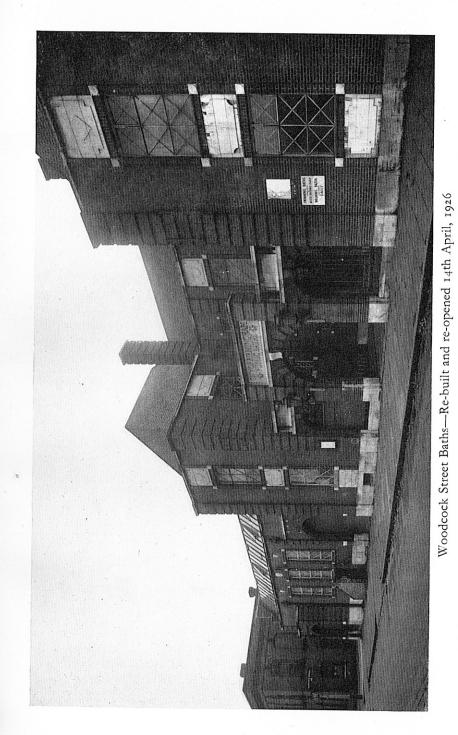
The design of the building was in the Gothic style of architecture and of red brick with blue brick plinth and stone dressings, string courses and coping.

The original accommodation included a large Swimming Bath and suites of Private Baths for Men and Women, each with a small Plunge Bath.

Additions up to the year 1902 were a First Class Swimming Bath and suites of First Class Private Baths and a Steam Laundry, the latter to ease the position at the Kent Street Laundry in dealing with the increased requirements of the remaining establishments.

Shortly after the Great War, it was decided to reconstruct the Woodcock Street Baths, only the Bath added in 1902 remaining unaltered. The new buildings, opened on the 14th April, 1926, included a Gala Bath, suites of Private Baths for Men and Women and a Central Establishment Laundry, capable of handling the requirements of the whole of the Department's establishments.

During the winter of 1948-49, the Gala Bath was completely modernised by the installation of under-water lighting, improved lighting in the Bath Hall, and the application of sprayed asbestos acoustic treatment to the Bath Hall ceiling.



11

NORTHWOOD STREET BATHS

In 1853, a memorial from the inhabitants in the northern district for Baths to be provided, was referred to the Baths Committee, and after some delay regarding a site, one lying between Northwood Street and Kenyon Street was chosen for the erection of an establishment to serve the four northern Wards, which then comprised one-third of the area of the Borough.

The foundation stone of the Northwood Street Baths was laid on the 30th May, 1861, and the building, which is of red brick and blue brick base, interspersed with block stone dressings and facings and stone string courses with moulded cornice and cappings, was opened to the public on the 5th March, 1862.

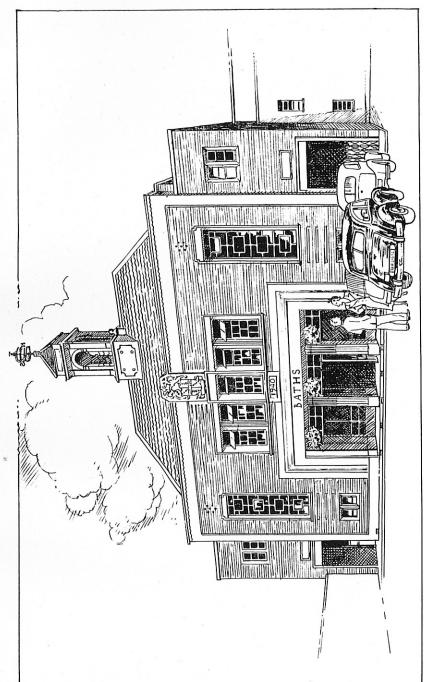
This Bath, until it was closed in 1947, was really Birmingham's oldest Bath, as unlike those at Kent Street and Woodcock Street, which although erected earlier, had been reconstructed, Northwood Street Baths preserved its original design both internally and externally until the outbreak of War in 1939, when the Private Bath accommodation was altered and used as a First Aid Post.

With its First and Second Class Swimming Baths and large suites of Private Baths, this establishment gave excellent service to the City for over 85 years.

MONUMENT ROAD BATHS

The question of providing bathing facilities in the Northwest district of the City arose in 1867, but it was not until 1877 that a site in Monument Road was acquired.

The erection of the building was commenced early in 1881 and on the 27th February, 1883, the Monument Road Baths was opened.



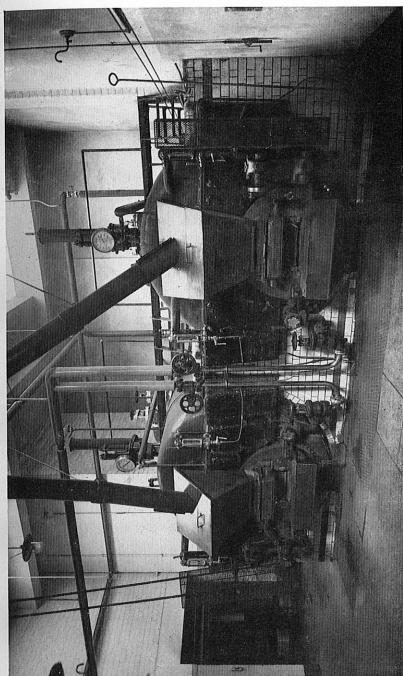
A contemporary description of the premises is interesting

The front elevation of these baths is in the picturesque style of Gothic architecture and is built with red pressed bricks, interspersed with red terra-cotta dressings, mouldings and string courses; the doors and window openings are also faced with terra-cotta, with sunk panels over each, and carved water lilies or other floral designs introduced, giving a very pretty and handsome appearance to the whole facade.

Twentyone years had elapsed since the erection of the last bathing establishment in the City and the speeches at the opening ceremony stressed not only the fact that the new Baths were as up to date as any in the country, but that further establishments should be erected in other parts of the City.

The Monument Road Baths offered First and Second Class Swimming Baths, suites of First and Second Class Men's and Women's Private Baths and Turkish Baths, and due to its situation in a convenient part of the City, it rapidly attracted attendances which were only exceeded by those at Kent Street.

Just prior to the outbreak of the Second World War, it was decided to demolish the Monument Road Baths and to erect on the same site a modern establishment which would carry on the traditions of the previous fifty years. The area of the new building, however, had to be restricted due to the new building line for Monument Road, with the result that it was only possible to provide one Swimming Bath. There are no Turkish Baths in the new building but excellent suites of Private Baths are installed and the new Monument Road Baths, which were opened on the 27th June, 1940, attracts even more patrons than in previous years.



The Boilers—Monument Road Baths

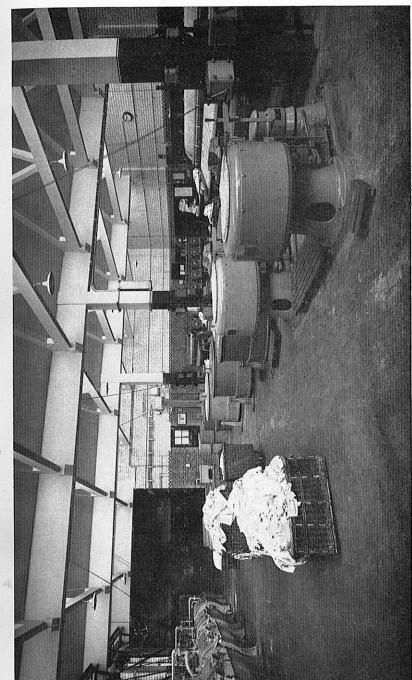
GREEN LANE BATHS

Even before the Monument Road Baths project had first been mooted—in 1867—the question of erecting an establishment to serve the populous districts of Bordesley, Deritend and the adjoining Wards, had been under consideration by the Council and when in 1886, the Baths Committee presented proposals with a view to getting some finality on this long outstanding matter, the site suggested was rejected on the grounds that a cheaper site should be sought.

A year later, no alternative site having become available, the original proposals were renewed, but an amendment to the effect that in view of the depressed state of trade, money should not be spent on Baths at all, resulted in the recommendations being again defeated.

Undeterred, the Baths Committee in 1890 joined forces with the Free Libraries Committee, who also wanted a site in Bordesley, and put forward a proposal for the acquisition of a site in Green Lane on which both Baths and a Library could be erected. This was accepted by the Council, but further difficulties regarding the expenditure to be incurred delayed the opening of the Green Lane Baths until the 29th October, 1902.

The long-awaited Baths in Green Lane had First and Second Class Swimming Baths and suites or First and Second Class Private Baths for Men and Women. From the date of its opening, serving as it does one of the most thickly populated areas of the City, the Baths have been heavily patronised in all Sections and the destruction of the Large Swimming Bath by enemy action during a night raid on 18th October, 1940, has proved a severe handicap in meeting the requirements of this district. Happily, the necessary permission has now been received to rebuild the damaged bath and it is hoped to commence the work early in 1951.



Central Laundry-Woodcock Street Baths

During the discussions in 1890 for the inclusion of the Balsall Heath district within the City Area under the City of Birmingham Extension Order, an undertaking was given to provide a Public Baths as soon as was practicable after the passing of the Bill.

The Order came into operation on the 1st October, 1891, and the Council duly instructed the Baths Committee to select a suitable site for the erection of Baths in the newly-acquired district.

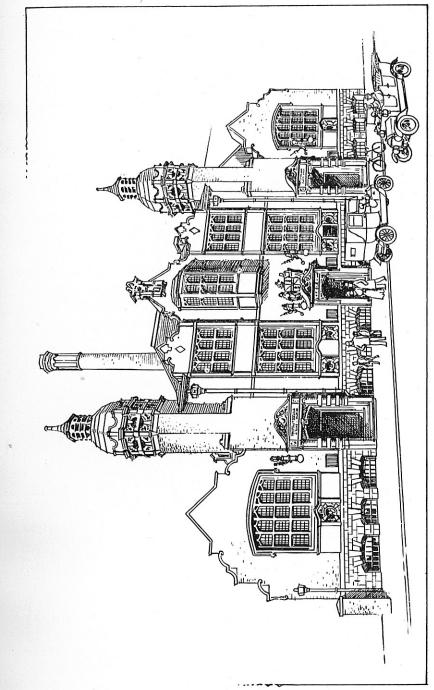
In view of their experiences over the Green Lane Baths, the Baths Committee decided to again join forces with the Free Libraries Committee, who, incidentally were already involved to the extent that a Library had also been promised to the residents in the negotiations concerning the incorporation of the Balsall Heath district within the new City Area.

Eventually, a site in the Moseley Road was decided upon and after some delay in completing the boring operations for a well, the construction of the premises commenced.

The Moseley Road Baths were opened to the public on the 30th October, 1907, and contained a First Class Swimming Bath with gallery for spectators, a Second Class Swimming Bath, suites of First and Second Class Private Baths for Men and Women, a Clubroom and a small Establishment Laundry.

Thus was the promise made in 1890 redeemed in 1907.

It is interesting to record that as far back as 1846, there was a Private Bathing Establishment near the present Moseley Road Baths. These consisted of a large Swimming Bath over 100ft. in length and 40ft. wide, with a few Private Baths. The charges were 6d. for swimming and 1s. for a private bath, and in an advertisement of the times, the proprietor drew



Moseley Road Baths—Opened 30th October, 1907

attention to the fact that 'Stabling and other Conveniences are erected for the accommodation of Gentlemen attending in Carriages or on Horseback'.

These Baths closed at about the time the open-air bath in Cannon Hill Park was opened in 1873 and on the death of the owner, the premises were offered for sale to the Balsall Heath Local Board of Health, who, however, declined to purchase them on the grounds that the district could do without Baths, as in their opinion the facilities available at Kent Street were sufficiently near for all purposes.

THE GREATER BIRMINGHAM SCHEME

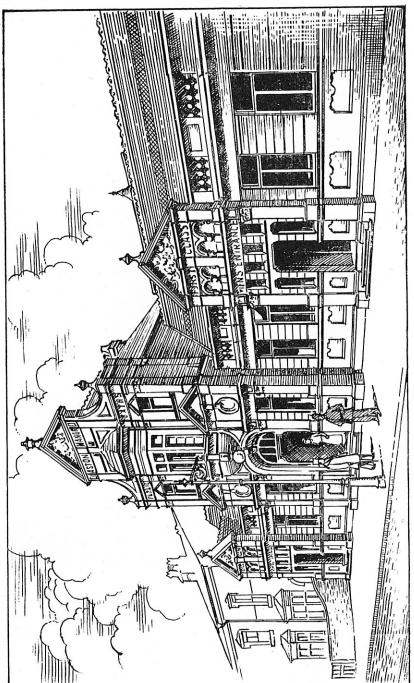
Following the Royal Assent given on the 3rd June, 1911, to the Bill for the inclusion of Handsworth, Aston Manor, Erdington, Yardley, Moseley, King's Heath and Selly Oak, in what was known as the Greater Birmingham Scheme, the Baths Committee became responsible for the Public Baths at

Victoria Road, Aston Tiverton Road, Selly Oak Grove Lane, Handsworth Bournville Lane, Stirchley

VICTORIA ROAD BATHS

Erected by the Aston Local Board, the Victoria Road Baths were opened on the 5th October, 1892, and comprised First and Second Class Swimming Baths and First and Second Class Private Baths for Men and Women. In the First Class Bath there is a gallery which can accommodate several hundreds of spectators.

So that the fullest possible use of the premises could be made all the year round, it was the custom to lay a floor over the First Class Swimming Baths during the winter months and gymnastic training was available.



Victoria Road Baths

TIVERTON ROAD BATHS

These Baths were erected by the King's Norton and Northfield District Council and opened on the 29th September, 1906. The accommodation included two Swimming Baths, one with a gallery for spectators and one specially designed for the use of children, with Private Baths for Men and Women. Here again, the larger Swimming Bath was floored over during the winter months and used for social purposes.

GROVE LANE BATHS

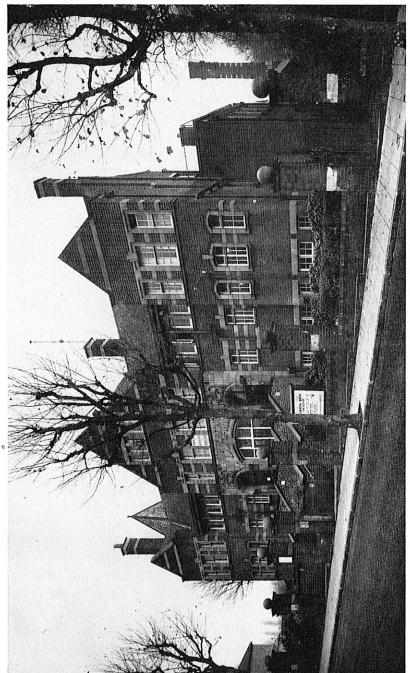
On the 28th January, 1907, the Grove Lane Baths, built by the Handsworth Local Board, was opened to the public and offered First and Second Class Swimming Baths, suites of First and Second Class Private Baths for Men and Women and an excellent Turkish Baths designed in 'an appropriate Eastern style'.

The First Class Swimming Bath, which has a spectators' gallery, was fitted with a floor in the winter months and used for social purposes.

Each Swimming Bath is 100ft. long, a somewhat unusual feature for an establishment constructed some fifty years ago and one which has earned the gratitude of all swimmers attending the Grove Lane Baths.

BOURNVILLE LANE BATHS

These Baths, the second provided by the King's Norton and Northfield District Council, were opened on the 25th July, 1911. Here there is one Swimming Bath with a gallery for spectators and during the winter months this Bath was floored over and used as a Hall. There are suites of Private Baths for Men and Women and until the service was discontinued by the Baths Committee shortly after the premises were taken over, there was a small Russian or Vapour Baths.



Grove Lane Baths, Handsworth—Opened 28th January, 1907

A most interesting feature at the Bournville Lane Baths in those days was the system of aeration and filtration for the swimming bath water, which, contrary to the usual practice of the times, when the water supply to the swimming baths was almost invariably obtained from deep-wells, was obtained from the Corporation mains and continuously filtered, obviating the necessity for the filling and emptying of the baths according to the state of the water.

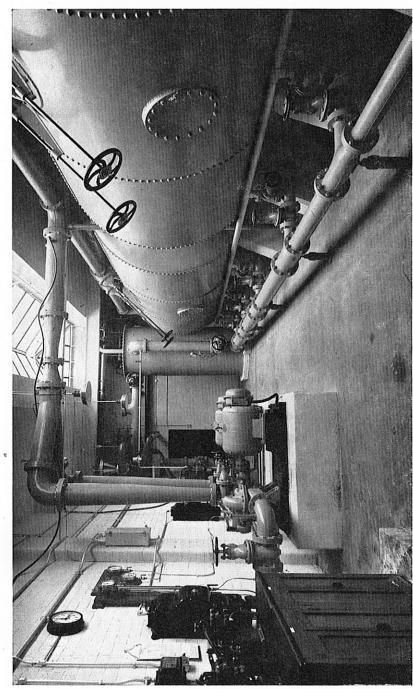
The principles of this system were later to be introduced into all swimming baths controlled by Local Authorities, but the King's Norton and Northfield District Council are to be commended as being one of the first authorities in the country to have installed such plant.

NECHELLS BATHS

In 1900, pressure was brought to bear on the Council by the representatives of the Nechells Ward for the provision of Baths, but on the grounds that the Baths Committee were already fully committed, Nechells had to wait its turn.

Three years later, a site at the corner of Nechells Park and Aston Church Road was acquired, but it was not until 1908 that approval was obtained for expenditure on the building, which was commenced in that year and opened on the 22nd June, 1910.

Constructed in the 'modern Renaissance style of architecture, in red brick with stone colour terra-cotta dressings and facings to windows, porticos, turrets and copings', and with accommodation comprising a Large Swimming Bath with spectators' gallery and suites of Private Baths for Men and Women, Nechells Baths soon achieved great popularity in a district which was sorely in need of such facilities.



Filtration and Chlorination Plant

THE COTTAGE BATHS

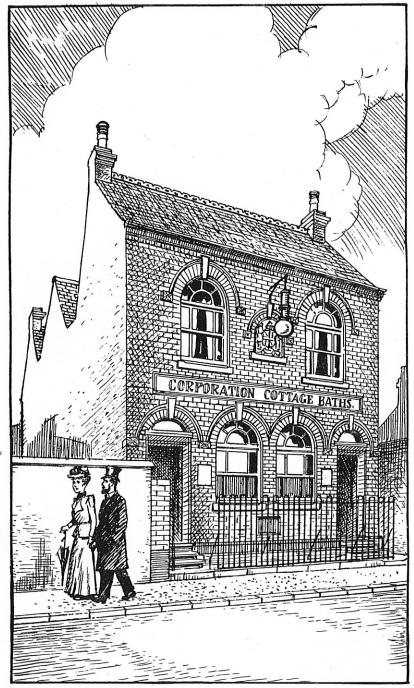
The Baths Committee's first attempt to introduce Cottage Baths was made in 1902, when it was proposed that the Police Buildings in George Arthur Road, Saltley, which had become redundant, should be converted for use as Cottage Baths.

Enquiries previously made from other local authorities as to how they were best dealing with the provision of private baths in congested areas at comparatively cheaper rates had resulted in information that in Manchester, Liverpool, Bradford and Brighton, small house property had been taken over and its accommodation converted for use as bathrooms, where for a moderate charge or in some cases, free of charge, baths were provided.

The experiments at Manchester, Liverpool and Bradford, however, had not met the position, and these authorities had abandoned the idea in favour of the erection of small Private Bath establishments; but Brighton had for many years successfully operated four or five Cottage Baths and it was in view of this that the Baths Committee made its recommendations regarding the Police Buildings in George Arthur Road, Saltley.

Their proposals, were, however, severely criticized by the Council and the Baths Committee hastily but reluctantly withdrew them to save defeat.

Three years later, the Baths Committee drew the Council's attention to a resolution received from the Health Committee based on a report from the Medical Officer of Health on infant mortality, in which the erection of Cottage Baths as an experiment was strongly recommended, and on asking that one such set of Baths be considered, their proposals were on this occasion 'unanimously approved and criticized only as being too modest'.



The First Cottage Baths, Coventry Street, Digbeth-Opened 1st October, 1908

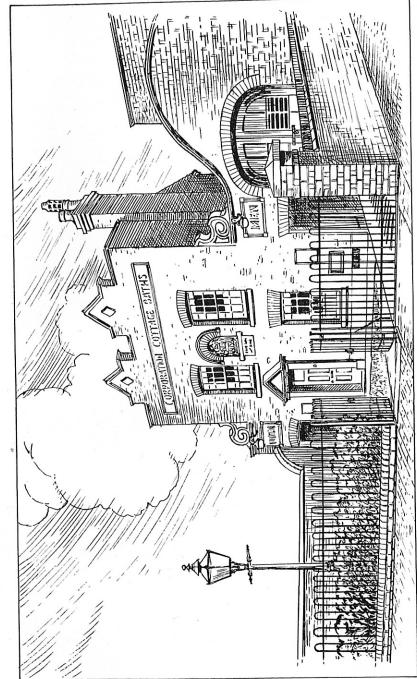
The next step was to acquire a suitable property for conversion, but after several unsuccessful attempts, it was decided to erect a building and instal suites of Private Baths, thus unconsciously or otherwise emulating the procedure of Manchester, Liverpool and Bradford.

The site chosen for the first Cottage Baths was in Coventry Street, Digbeth, and the building, which was opened on the 1st October, 1908, provided six Private Baths for Men on the ground floor and five for Women on the first floor. Immediately, the attendances at the Coventry Street Cottage Baths were such that it was found impossible to cater for all those requiring to use the premises, particularly at weekends, and eventually the building was extended to accommodate twelve further baths for men and six for women, the additional facilities becoming available on 21st March, 1914.

Following the success of the original experiment, two further Cottage Baths were erected and both opened on the 29th February, 1912, at Brearley Street, Summer Lane, with nine Private Baths for men and nine for women, and at Bacchus Road, Winson Green, with thirteen baths for men and thirteen for women. At Bacchus Road, use was made of an old property fronting the site, but this was converted as a Ticket Office and for accommodation for the Attendants, the actual bathrooms being constructed at the rear of the premises.

When on 31st July, 1912, however, the Baths Committee approached the Council with recommendations to provide a fourth Cottage Baths in Lower Dartmouth Street, defeat was averted by one vote (25-24), the opposition this time being on the grounds of the heavy increase in expenditure and rating which followed the enlargement of the City. These premises were opened on the 29th June, 1914.

Further Cottage Baths were later erected and opened at Adderley Road, Saltley, on 13th June, 1923; at Grosvenor



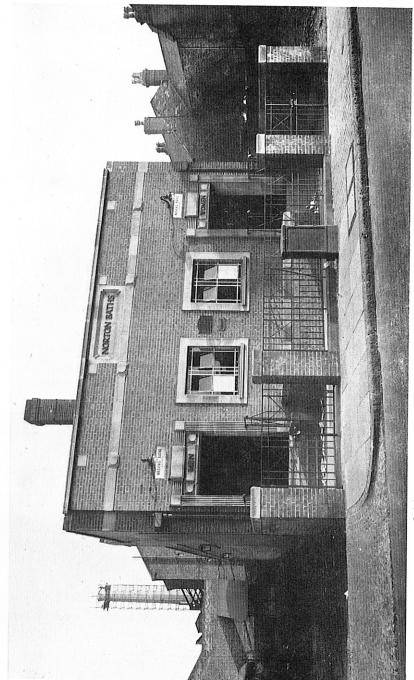
Road, Aston, and Willis Street, Ashted, both on 12th July, 1924; and at St. George's Street, Hockley, on the 29th February, 1936.

The original proposal for the conversion of the Police Buildings in George Arthur Road, Saltley, was never proceeded with as a through-site from George Arthur Road, on which stood the Police Buildings, to Adderley Road, was eventually acquired, a swimming bath being erected with an entrance to George Arthur Road and the Cottage Baths in Adderley Road as already mentioned. Bomb damage to the front of these latter premises was sustained during a night raid on 17th October, 1940, but this has since been repaired.

The St. George's Street Cottage Baths came into being as the result of the failure of these premises as a Public Washhouse, opened on the 18th January, 1928, when it was decided to abandon this project and instal suites of Private Baths. Completely demolished during a night raid on the City on the 19th November, 1940, it has since been rebuilt in a temporary design and was re-opened for public use on the 1st April, 1949.

Of the eight Cottage Baths erected, those at Coventry Street, Brearley Street and Lower Dartmouth Street are no longer in use, due to decreasing patronage through the districts becoming more or less non-residential, but the remaining five experience exceptionally heavy attendances and prove their worth in the districts concerned.

Strangely enough and as will have been seen from this account, Cottage Baths in their originally intended form were never provided in Birmingham, but the establishments built as the result of the first recommendations of the Baths Committee have always been known as Cottage Baths and are likely to remain so-called.



Saltley Norton Cottage Baths, Saltley—Opened 13th June, 1923

KING'S HEATH BATHS

Plans for the extension of the Department had of necessity been interrupted by the Great War of 1914-1918, but in 1920 as the result of a memorial from the residents of the King's Heath district, it was decided to build an establishment on a site in Institute Road, acquired in 1911.

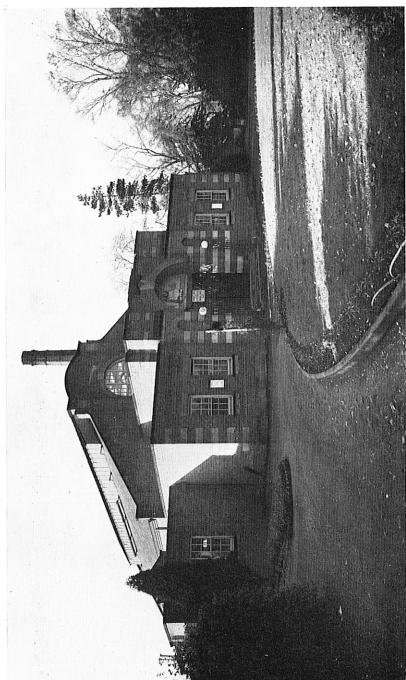
This bath was erected as part of the Corporation's scheme of Unemployed Relief Works, and the facilities provided were a swimming bath with suites of washing baths for men and women.

As is mentioned elsewhere in this account, it was decided, in view of the apparent lack of support for winter swimming, to construct the swimming bath to conform to the Licensing Justices' requirements, so that it could be floored over and used as a Hall in the winter months.

Since the opening of King's Heath Baths on 15th August, 1923, it has proved a popular venue for swimmers during the summer, and for many years the City's leading badminton clubs have made good use of the excellent courts available in the Hall during the winter months. The Saturday night dances are also well patronised, and as there are winter swimming facilities at no great distance, it is felt that this establishment serves a useful purpose throughout the year in the best interests of the local community as a whole.

HARBORNE BATHS

Shortly after the residents of King's Heath had pressed for a bath in their district, an approach was made to the Council by the residents of Harborne for a bath to be erected on a site which had been acquired by the Baths Committee in Lordswood Road in 1911.



Harborne Batl

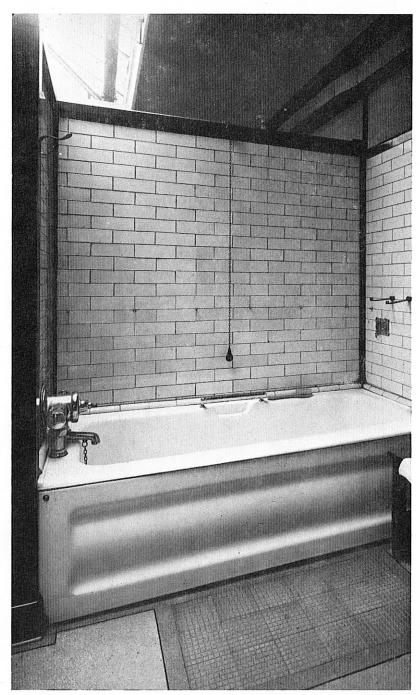
Constructed on almost identical lines to the establishment at King's Heath, and again forming part of the City's Unemployed Relief Scheme, the Harborne Baths, opened on 13th December, 1923, give good service to swimmers, and as a Hall in winter time.

SALTLEY BATHS

The Baths Committee, having abandoned its original intention to convert the Police Buildings in George Arthur Road, Saltley, for use as Cottage Baths, and instead to erect Cottage Baths on a site offered by Lord Norton in Adderley Road, decided to acquire additional land at the rear of the Police Buildings, and to erect a swimming bath on the enlarged site.

Although Saltley Baths, opened on 30th July, 1924, cannot claim to attract as many swimmers as most of the Department's remaining establishments, it has the distinction of being the first of the City's baths built to contain a 100-ft. swimming pool. Apart from Grove Lane Baths, acquired from the Handsworth Local Board under the Greater Birmingham Scheme, which had two 100-ft. pools, establishments so far provided contained pools of varying lengths under 100-ft. This often proved inconvenient from the point of view of competitive swimming, and Saltley Baths was to set the pattern in swimming bath measurements for future establishments to be erected.

When converted for use as a Hall during the winter, Saltley Baths is one of the City's most popular venues for public dancing, and in a locality where entertainment facilities are practically non-existent, makes a useful contribution to the neighbourhood's amenities.



A Modern Washing Bath

ERDINGTON BATHS

As was to be expected, the residents of those districts in which it had not yet been possible to provide bathing facilities, were not slow in pressing their claims for consideration in the Committee's programme of expansion, and the Erdington district was the next in which it was decided to erect baths.

A site was acquired in Mason Road, and an establishment comprising a swimming bath, suites of washing baths for men and women, and a Turkish baths, was erected and opened on 6th May, 1925.

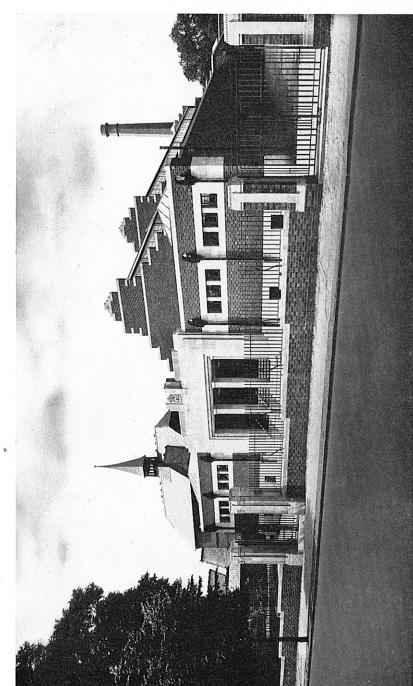
Although convertible for use as a Hall, and in fact once used for this purpose, the Committee soon recognised that there was a demand in this area for swimming during the winter, and in consequence, the pool remains available for swimming throughout the year.

SPARKHILL BATHS

In February, 1927, a Memorial was presented to the City Council pressing for the erection of baths in the Sparkhill district. A scheme had already been considered and approved by the Council in 1923 for a bath to be built in this area, as an Unemployed Relief Work, but this had been postponed due to the fact that all skilled labour was at the time required for house building.

With a view to providing an establishment of the most up-to-date design on a site acquired in the busy Stratford Road, the Baths Committee visited other towns to examine the latest types of baths built, and furthermore, travelled to the Continent, where, particularly in Germany, much useful information was obtained.

Sparkhill Baths, opened on 29th July, 1931, is an establishment of which the Department is rightly proud. The



Sparkhill Baths

building is of brick, relieved with reconstructed stone, and has a frontage to the main road of 126-ft. The main swimming pool is 100-ft. by 35-ft., and has a depth of 9-ft. at one end and 3-ft. 6-in. at the other. An interesting feature is the learners' pool situated near the Entrance Hall, specially suited for the use of children, which is 32-ft. by 21-ft. 4-in. and has a depth ranging from 2-ft. 1-in. at the shallow end to 3-ft. 6-in. at the deep end.

There are 160 dressing boxes, 80 on each side of the building; these do not front on to the main swimming pool, but are ranged along corridors running parallel with the bath, and bathers enter from their respective sides under archways situated opposite the centre.

In addition to the main swimming and learners' pools, there are excellent suites of washing baths for men and women, and a cafe where light refreshments may be obtained.

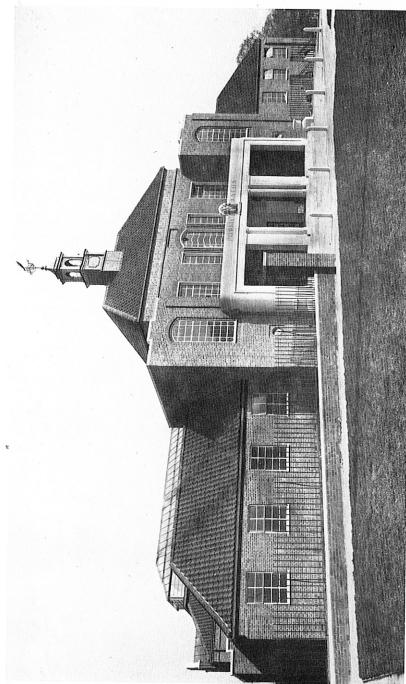
The premises have recently been modernised by the introduction of up-to-date lighting, and the application of acoustic treatment in the bath Halls.

NORTHFIELD BATHS

Following the erection of Sparkhill Baths, the Committee gave its attention to the erection of baths to cater for the increasing population of the newly developed areas on the outskirts of the City, and chose a well placed site in the Bristol Road South at Northfield for this purpose.

For such areas, there was no longer the necessity to provide washing bath facilities as each home had its own bathroom.

Northfield Baths was opened on 8th May, 1937, and the accommodation consists of two swimming pools, the main swim measuring 100-ft. by 35-ft., together with a learners'



Northfield Baths

pool 21-ft. 6-in. by 33-ft.; the main swim varies in depth from 3-ft. 3-in. to 10-ft. 2-in. at the deep end.

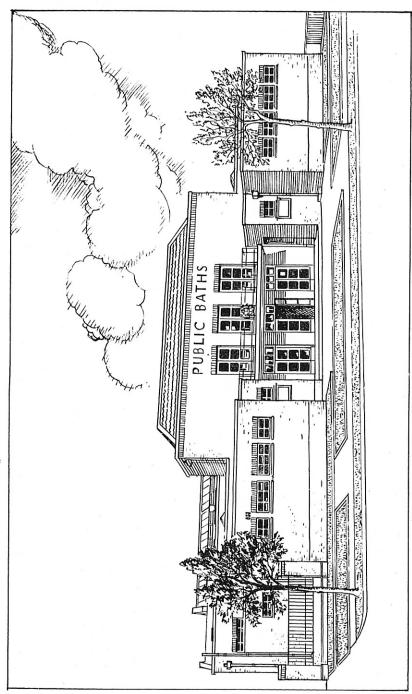
The building has an imposing elevation, and is provided with a spacious entrance hall in which the ticket office is situated. Dressing rooms for both sexes are ranged on both sides of the ticket office, and bathers on leaving the dressing rooms have to enter the swimming hall by passing through pre-cleansing rooms. On the ground floor are scholars' rooms for communal changing, and on the upper floor is a spacious cafe overlooking the swimming hall. The site is an extensive one, and there is ample space for car parking. Northfield Baths has also recently been modernised by the installation of improved lighting, and the application of acoustic treatment in both Swimming Halls.

KINGSTANDING BATHS

The second of the Department's Baths to be erected in the newly developed areas of the City was at Warren Farm Road, Kingstanding.

Opened on the 31st March, 1938, this establishment is well set back from the road with a turfed forecourt, harmonising with the general layout of this part of the district.

The facilities available are similar in every respect to those at Northfield Baths, the large swim being 100-ft. by 35-ft., graded from 3-ft. 3-in. to 10-ft. 2-in., and the learners' pool 36-ft. by 18-ft., graded from 2-ft. 3-in. to 4-ft. 6-in.



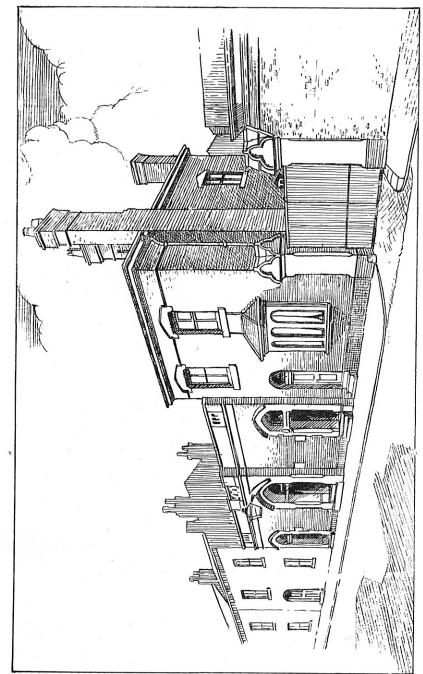
Kingstanding Baths

THE SOCIAL INSTITUTES

On the 30th September, 1903, a Public Meeting was held in the Council Chamber, to hear an address by Dr. Paton of Nottingham on the subject of the 'Leisure of the People', during which particular reference was made to the work carried out by the Christian Social Union in Glasgow.

During the discussions which followed the address several facts emerged which largely influenced the decisions afterwards taken. Briefly, these facts included the need for increased provision for popular recreation during the winter months when the City Parks could not fulfil the same functions as in summer, and that in accordance with a Municipal Policy which already provided Parks and Playgrounds used for recreation in the summer, and Free Libraries and an Art Gallery open all the year round, it was anticipated that the City Council might make some contribution to the solution of the problem. The Meeting appointed a Committee to survey the position in the City and report further. At the second Meeting in 1904, the Birmingham Social Institutes Committee was constituted 'to provide recreation of the broadest and most comprehensive character, on neutral ground, for both sexes, unassociated with any sect or political party, and linked up with the Municipal life of the City.'

A deputation from the Committee, which included Sir Oliver Lodge, Mr. Samuel E. Short, Alderman J. H. Lloyd, Mr. William Arthur Albright (Hon. Treasurer) and Mr. J. H. Lear Caton (Hon. Secretary), waited upon the Baths Committee in the early part of 1904, to suggest that as the swimming baths were either closed or lying practically idle at the time indoor facilities were most needed, permission might be granted for the Social Institutes Committee to use a swimming bath or baths as winter recreation centres. Whilst declining the responsibility of organising such a scheme, the Baths Committee offered their fullest co-operation and the facilities



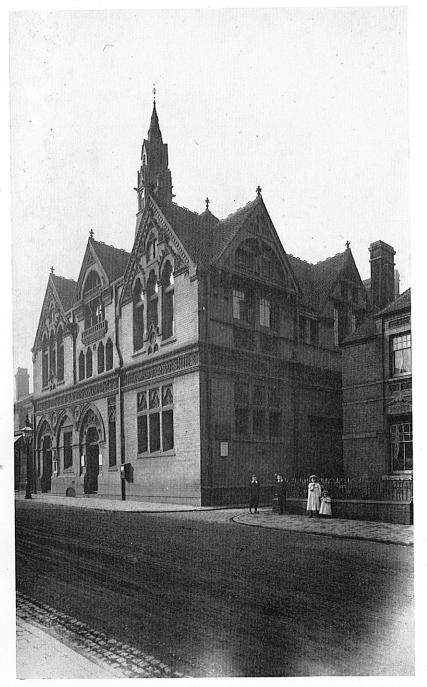
Northwood Street Baths-Opened 5th March, 1862

desired, by granting the use of the First Class Swimming Bath at the Northwood Street Establishment, if on their part the Social Institutes Committee would undertake the conversion of the premises to an Assembly Hall by flooring over the Bath, and generally administering the Centre. This offer was gladly accepted, and funds were raised to meet the immediate overheads. Employers in the district were asked for, and gave, their co-operation, and in due course, on Wednesday the 6th December, 1905, the first Social Institute was opened. The premises were opened free from 6.30 p.m. to 10.30 p.m. Mondays to Fridays, and on Saturday afternoons, to persons of both sexes over 18 years of age. Facilities for billiards, bagatelle, cards, chess, draughts, and an air-gun range were provided upon payment of a small fee. Full advantage was taken of the Institutes services as a record of the attendances shows, and on Saturday evenings popular concerts were arranged which attracted capacity houses.

The success of the Northwood Street Club induced the Social Institutes Committee in 1905 to again approach the Baths Committee who offered the use of the First Class Swimming Baths at Monument Road and Woodcock Street in addition to the Hall at Northwood Street, on similar terms to those already granted, with one modification, in that if the floors of the two Halls were provided by the organising body, all three floors should be transferred to the Baths Department as its property, the Baths Committee undertaking to remove, store and replace them each Season so long as they might be required by the Social Institutes Committee. It was on this basis that other swimming baths were subsequently opened as winter clubs.

The movement grew, as will be seen from the following list of premises used as Social Institutes, opened on the dates shown:—

Northwood Street 6th December, 1905 Monument Road 2nd November, 1906



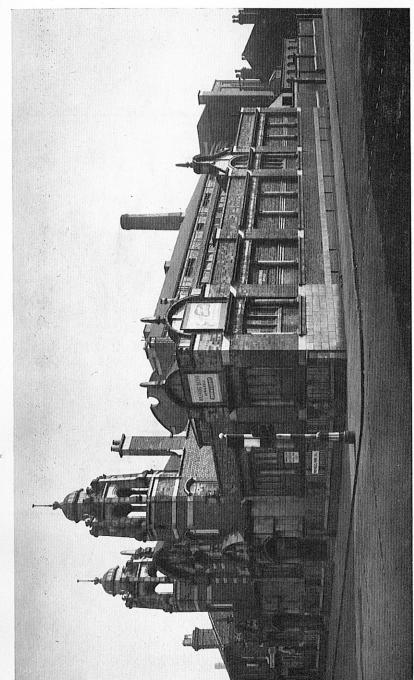
Old Monument Road Baths

Woodcock Street 3rd November, 1906
Moseley Road 21st November, 1908
Nechells 14th November, 1910
Small Heath 25th November, 1911
Northwood Street Second Pool . 16th December, 1911

Many of Birmingham's foremost citizens contributed towards the sums required to provide floors and equipment. Amongst them were Alderman J. H. Lloyd and Mr. William A. Albright, whose particular generosity did a great deal to ensure the finances of the movement. The experiment attracted attention in other towns and cities, and deputations visited the Clubs to see them at work.

The scheme enjoyed uninterrupted success until the outbreak of the first World War in 1914. In the second year of the War the Clubs at Northwood Street and Small Heath were temporarily suspended, and remained closed until the War was over. With the cessation of hostilities the Clubs were resuscitated and reorganised. In the reorganisation a change was made at Northwood Street, where the administration of the Club was taken over by Col. Miss E. Osborn and ladies of the Women's Volunteer Reserve (later known as the British Red Cross). For several winters these ladies gave magnificent and unflagging service and the popularity of the Northwood Street Club exceeded all previous records. Dancing, which was rapidly becoming an accepted pastime, was organised nightly in the Main Hall, and the Second Hall was used mainly for games. Excellent Canteen services were provided, and prices were kept to a minimum.

There was an important development in the post War period when unemployment increased alarmingly. On the initiative of the Lord Mayor, the Club Rooms were opened in the daytime to cater for unemployed men and women, who showed their appreciation by the large attendances recorded.



Nechells Park Road Baths, Nechells—Opened 22nd June, 1910

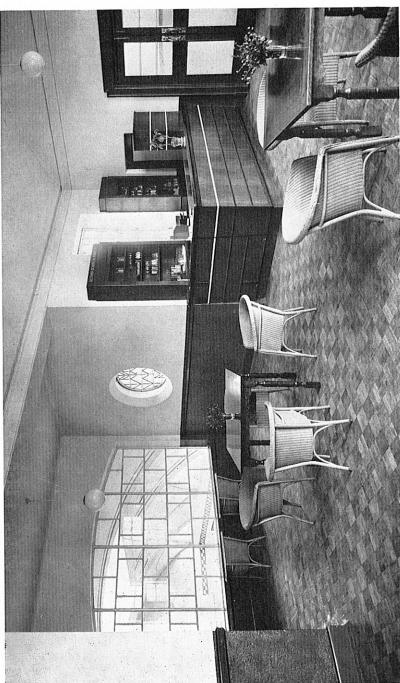
The Cafe—Northfield Baths

Changes in social habits following the first World War were reflected in the patronage and popularity of the games. Interest in air rifle shooting, bagatelle and billiards declined. Carpet bowls and table tennis enjoyed a brief measure of success. Dancing and card playing, particularly whist drives, retained as strong a hold on the patronage of the club users as ever.

Before the second World War, due to reconstruction work at the Monument Road and Woodcock Street Baths, it was not possible to provide the usual facilities. Immediately prior to the second World War only two establishments were being used, namely those at Moseley Road and Nechells. The outbreak of war saw the closing down of both these clubs, and by the time peace was declared the Social Institutes Committee had suffered irreparable losses in its leaders, all of whom had given magnificent service since the inception of the movement, and in 1945 the remaining members decided to disband the Social Institutes Committee and not attempt a revival of its work, believing that future development in this direction should be the responsibility of the Municipal Authorities. Today, of the original officers only the Hon. Secretary, Mr. J. H. Lear Caton survives, and he had served throughout from the first meeting in 1903 until the winding up of his Committee in 1945.

Mr. Caton has proved most helpful in providing the information which forms the basis of this account.

In closing, it must be recorded that the Police often bore testimony to the value of the work accomplished and the improvement in public order in the districts where the clubs were opened. Wives of men using the clubs were loud in their praise of the boon the movement had proved to their home life, and men who regularly attended expressed gratitude for the opportunity whereby they could meet their comrades in the rivalry of a game of whist or billiards.



THE TURKISH BATHS

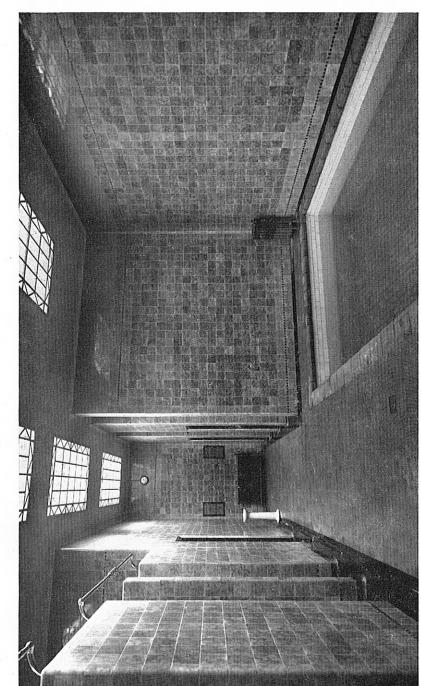
At a Meeting of the Council on the 1st August, 1876, the Baths Committee were instructed to consider and report if, in their opinion, it would be desirable and practicable to provide a Turkish Bath service or 'Hot-air Lavatories' as they were then called, in any of the City's bathing establishments.

From encouraging reports received of the success of such baths in London and other large towns, the Committee decided that a Turkish Bath Section, preferably at the Kent Street Establishment, would rapidly prove a popular addition to the facilities provided.

In making their report to the Council, the Committee recommended that the Turkish Baths should be installed in that part of the Kent Street Baths occupied by the public wash-house, the attendances at which had declined to a degree which was causing doubt as to whether this service should be continued.

Sanction to the proposals was granted in July, 1878, and Birmingham's first Turkish Baths were opened on the 27th January, 1879.

The accommodation included fourteen dressing compartments flanking a plunge bath 14ft. 6ins. long, 7ft 6ins. wide, with a uniform depth of 5ft. The plunge bath was 'enclosed with ornamental cast-iron balustrades close-boarded to the height of the hand-rail, and above curtains are fixed with brass rods to a height of six feet'. Adjacent to the plunge bath were the tepidarium and calidarium or warm and hot rooms, kept at temperatures of 145 deg. F. and 195 deg. Fr respectively, and adjoining was the shampooing room fitted with one marble slab and a needle, douche and shower bath. The lounge was situated on the first floor with access from the plunge room, and contained eight rest cubicles.



Plunge Bath and Shampoo Rooms, Kent Street Baths

The Turkish Baths achieved instant popularity, and there was no hesitation in providing a similar service at the Monument Road Establishment when this Bath came to be built.

Due to lack of space when the Monument Road Baths was rebuilt on a site limited through the revised building line, it was not possible to reinstate the Turkish Baths, but it was felt that the new and enlarged Section at Kent Street could cater for patrons who previously used the Monument Road facilities.

The new Section at Kent Street was installed in the reconstructed building opened in 1933, and is indeed a service of which Birmingham may rightly be proud. There is a spacious lounge with twenty-two dressing cubicles, three hot rooms, two Russian (steam) cabinets, four shampooing rooms, needle spray set and tiled plunge bath. The colour scheme and furnishings give effect to what may be claimed to be one of the finest suites of Turkish Baths in the country.

Turkish Baths were wisely included in the Handsworth Local Board's plans for the Grove Lane Baths, opened on 28th January, 1907, and on taking over these premises under the Greater Birmingham Scheme, the City acquired the excellent facilities provided by the foresight of the Local Board.

There is a further suite of Turkish Baths at the Erdington Establishment, opened on 6th May, 1925, giving Birmingham today three establishments at which one may enjoy the experience of a bath of this description.



The Lounge, Kent Street Turkish Baths

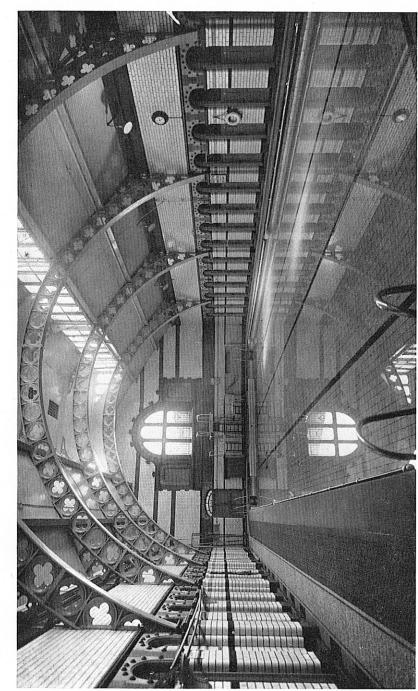
THE SWIMMING CLUBS

Kent Street Baths had been opened some eleven years before the City's first Swimming Club was formed in 1862 under the title of the 'Birmingham Amateur Swimming Club'. It seems fitting that this Club, claimed to be the oldest in the country, was later to become amalgamated with Birmingham's second oldest Swimming Club 'Leander' formed in 1877 and meeting at Northwood Street Baths. The names of both Clubs are preserved in the title 'Birmingham and Leander Swimming Club', and its members now meet at the Woodcock Street Baths.

Recognising the contribution which Swimming Clubs make in the best interests of health, recreation and sport, their activities have always been encouraged, and today a record number of Clubs enjoy facilities at the various establishments in the City.

Three Pools at Grove Lane, Moseley Road and Woodcock Street, are set on one side for the exclusive use of Clubs between the hours of 5.0 p.m. and 9.0 p.m. Monday to Friday each week, and a further fifteen periods are reserved at the remaining establishments for Clubs which can justify these special facilities for swimming, water polo and diving. Smaller Clubs find no difficulty in carrying out their activities with members of the public present.

Club members are admitted at reduced charges at all times and each registered Club is permitted a free Annual Gala; Baths may be hired for any event to which members of the public are admitted on payment, and the proceeds of these events defray the expenses involved and contribute to the funds of the Club concerned. Free facilities are also afforded the Royal Life Saving Society to assist that Organisation in its worthy efforts.

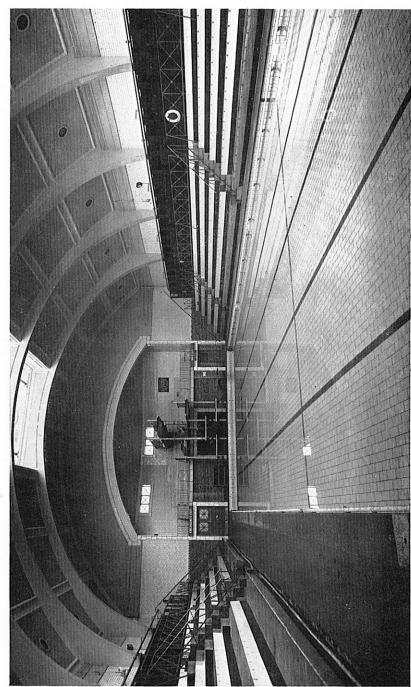


The Club Bath, Woodcock Street Baths

In addition to the eighty or more Clubs at present registered with the Department, the Swimming Sections of bodies such as the Sea Cadets and Boy Scouts meet at the various Baths during the week.

With a view to aiding the Clubs in bringing before the public first class swimming entertainment, the Baths Committee during the past few years has, in co-operation with the Warwickshire Amateur Swimming Association and the Birmingham Association of Swimming Clubs, staged special events at the Woodcock Street Gala Bath, notable amongst which were the International Speed Swimming Contest for the Bologna Trophy (1949), in which England, Scotland and Wales participate annually, and a visit as part of a tour organised by the Baths Department in 1950, of the 'Het Y' Swimming Club of Amsterdam.

The result of this co-operation between the Baths Committee and the Clubs will be manifest from the exceptionally attractive programme arranged for the Centenary Celebrations.



Woodcock Street Gala Bath

SCHOOL SWIMMING

Swimming, as part of the school curriculum, is nowadays such an accepted fact, that it is interesting to recall how arrangements for the attendance of school children at the Baths were first introduced.

It will not be surprising to learn that Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, to whom the City owes so much in so many different ways, made the original suggestion that school children should be encouraged to visit the swimming baths as part of their education, and that special facilities should be afforded to that end. In fact, it was at a Meeting of the Council held on 10th November, 1874, over which he was presiding as Mayor, that Mr. Chamberlain first raised the matter.

At the commencement of the summer season in April, 1875, a scheme, agreed upon by the Baths Committee and the Birmingham School Board was introduced, whereby books of one penny and halfpenny tickets could be purchased by school authorities for use in the First and Second Class Swimming Baths, by classes of elementary school children attending in charge of teachers during school hours. These tickets could also be purchased from the school authorities for use after school hours, up to 5.30 p.m. by scholars forming groups for swimming instruction in charge of an adult; whilst scholars who could already swim could purchase the tickets to visit the baths up to 5.30 p.m. of their own accord. A further inducement was the issue of Free Passes, valid for one year to scholars who could satisfy the teacher and a member of the Baths staff at tests which were held in October, that he could swim one length of the 30-yard bath at Kent Street.

The arrangements made, which were later extended to the Grammar and High Schools, were an immediate success,



Learners' Pool and Large Swim—Sparkhill Baths

and but for minor changes affecting only the administration of the scheme, have remained in operation ever since.

For many years, the school authorities left the instruction of the children in the hands of teachers who were able to swim, but in due course, classes at which teachers were taught the elements of swimming instruction, were arranged. In recent years, the Baths Committee has engaged the services of qualified Swimming Instructors to assist the Education Authority in coping with the growth of the scheme which now entails the full use of every bath each school day in the summer from 9.0 a.m. to 4.30 p.m., whilst in the winter a high proportion of the classes continue attending.

The opportunity for children to visit the baths after school hours up to 5.30 p.m. is still available and, what is more, the charge remains at 1d. per head. In addition, the Education Authority arranges annual swimming sports and galas for schools in the various districts, which parents may attend and see for themselves what has been accomplished from this particular aspect of their children's education.

Birmingham may well claim to serve its younger citizens well so far as swimming is concerned, and the City is well repaid by the excellent use made of the facilities provided.



arge Pool—Victoria Road Baths

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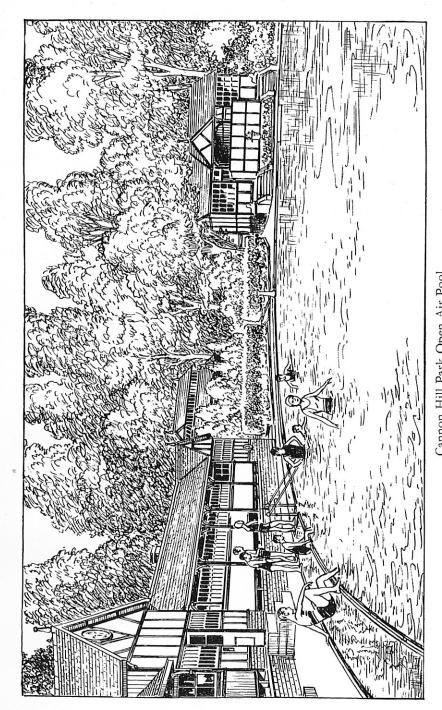
THE OPEN-AIR POOLS

Birmingham's first Municipal open-air bathing facilities were provided at the time Cannon Hill Park was being prepared, the Corporation installing an out-door swimming pool near the north-west boundary of the Park in close proximity to the two large boating pools. These facilities were made available on the opening of the Park on the 1st September, 1873, and were leased to the lessee of the boating pools. This lease, however, was not renewed in 1899 when it was decided that for the future the Baths Committee should be responsible for the management.

The water area of the pool was about 216 feet in length by 100 feet wide, and had a depth of 2 ft. 6 ins. to 6 feet at its deepest end. The bottom and sloping sides were formed of concrete, and the water supply was obtained from a small stream which had its source within the Park boundaries. A popular fallacy which persisted to the closing of the bath in 1939, was that the water supply came from a branch of the River Rea, but this was not so, as this source runs parallel to the bath outside the Park boundary some 6 feet below the level of the pool. Dressing accommodation was provided at one side of the bath with a paved promenade, and the remaining sides were turfed with sloping banks planted with shrubbery.

A second open-air swimming bath was opened on 9th July, 1883, in Small Heath (Victoria) Park. Forming an extension to the existing ornamental pool, this bath was oval in shape and some 138 feet long, and 85 feet at its widest part, with a depth of 3 feet to 6 feet at the deep end. The accommodation and layout was similar to that provided at Cannon Hill Park.

Birmingham's third out-door bath was at Brookvale Park, Erdington. Part of the disused reservoir was used for

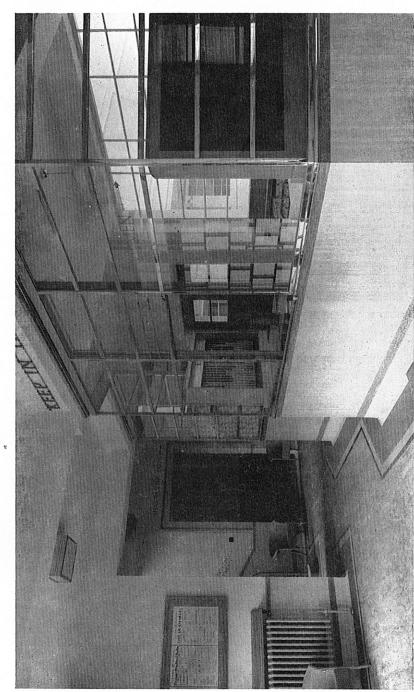


63

the purpose, and, opened on 7th October, 1909, it was available until 1926.

Whilst there is no doubt that the City's open-air pools gave pleasure to many over the years, it cannot be denied that it was only under extremely favourable weather conditions that any real attendances were attracted. Furthermore, judging by present standards, the conditions left much to be desired; and indeed, when certain standards for pools controlled by Local Authorities were insisted upon by the Ministry of Health, it became apparent that the baths at Cannon Hill and Small Heath would have to close. Constructed as they were, the cost of installing adequate filtration and chlorination plant was considered prohibitive, and early in 1939 both pools were closed.

It must not be thought, however, that we have seen the last of out-door bathing in the City. The Baths Committee's plans for the future include the provision of out-door bathing facilities on the most modern lines, and it is possible that certain establishments to be erected in suitable areas will include out-door as well as indoor facilities.



Ticket Office

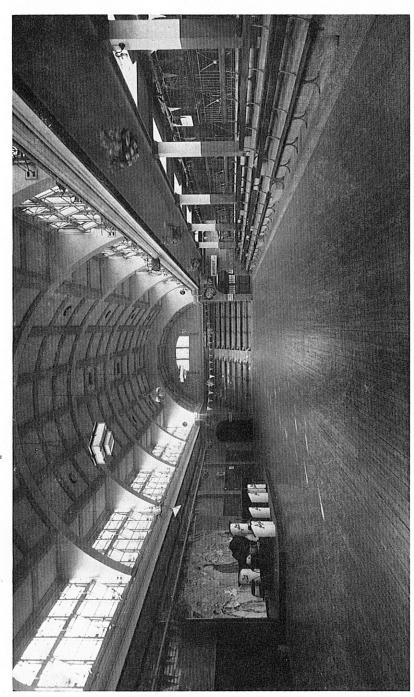
THE BATHS ASSEMBLY HALLS

The first occasion on which a Birmingham swimming bath was floored over and used as an Assembly Hall was in 1905, when the large pool at the Northwood Street Baths was so converted and the premises used as a Club by the Social Institutes Committee.

Until that time, no thought had been given to any alternative use of a swimming bath in the winter months. The pools were generally closed down during this period, although for some years the Department had kept open the baths at Kent Street and Woodcock Street in endeavours, which had met with little success, to popularise winter swimming.

Our neighbours at Aston had built their bath, opened in 1892, for the dual purpose of swimming in the summer and gymnastics in the winter; this was also true of the baths constructed by the King's Norton and Northfield District Council and the Handsworth Local Board, whose establishments at Tiverton Road, Selly Oak, Bournville Lane, Stirchley and Grove Lane, Handsworth, were all planned for swimming in the summer and for use as Halls in the winter. These four baths were later to be taken over by the City under the Greater Birmingham Scheme.

Apart from the use of certain establishments as Clubs by the Social Institutes Committee, the Baths Committee, in the absence of any demand for winter swimming, continued merely to close most of the pools at the end of each summer, but on constructing further establishments after the 1914-1918 War, so planned them that they could be converted for use as Halls, for which there was a great demand, should swimmers prove as hard to attract as had been the experience of previous years. King's Heath Baths, opened in 1923, was the first so



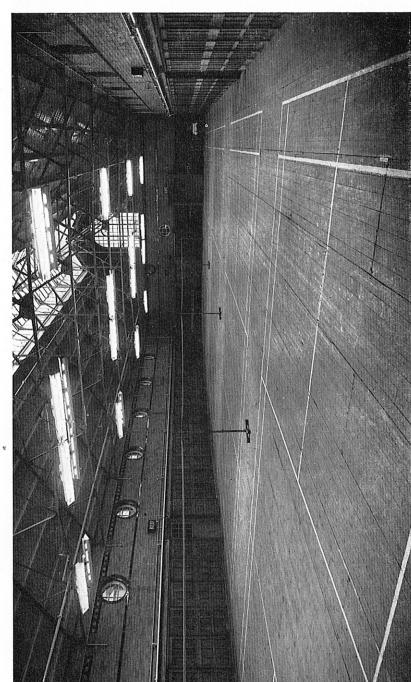
Saltley Baths Ballroom

planned, and subsequent establishments at Harborne, Saltley, Erdington, Sparkhill, Northfield and Kingstanding, and the reconstructed baths at Woodcock Street, Kent Street and Monument Road, were all built to conform to the requirements of the Licensing Justices for use as Assembly Halls.

Between the Wars, various premises were extensively used as Halls, and lettings were effected for social purposes, public dancing, badminton and the like. Indeed the winter demand for swimming was negligible and easily met by a few baths, whilst others were emptied and remained without any use whatsoever being made of them.

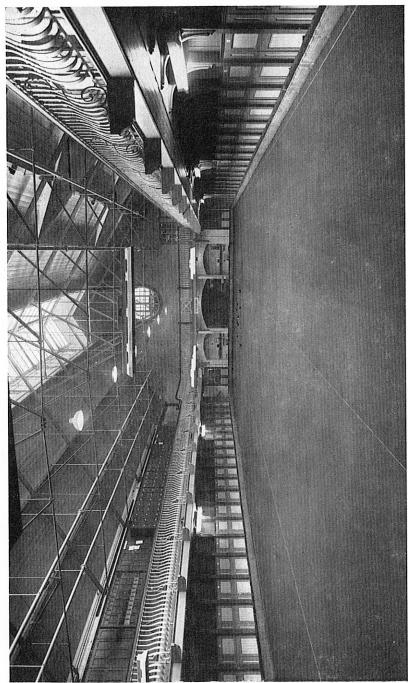
The end of the Second World War, during which the premises at which there were Halls were used as First Aid Posts, brought an unprecedented demand for swimming facilities, and the Baths Committee naturally gave serious thought to the policy of the conversion of baths for use as winter Halls. The programme was accordingly drastically reduced, and today six premises only are involved, namely those at Grove Lane, Handsworth; Lordswood Road, Harborne; Institute Road, King's Heath; Moseley Road, Balsall Heath; Nechells Park Road, Nechells; and George Arthur Road, Saltley. At two of these baths-Grove Lane and Moseley Road—there are second pools, so that there are only four establishments at which swimming facilities are not available in the winter. This policy gives swimmers almost the same facilities in the winter as during the summer months, and particularly, it enables the school children to continue their visits and the Clubs to function throughout the year.

A further change in policy was effected by the Baths Committee in 1947, when it was decided that the Halls were no longer to be available for the private promotion of public dancing, but that the Department should engage Orchestras and Masters of Ceremonies, and suitably equip and staff the



The Badminton Courts—King's Heath Baths

Halls for the purpose of directly controlling this particular branch of entertainment. The Halls were still made available for letting to bona fide organisations desirous of raising funds for social or charitable purposes, and also for hire for such other uses as did not conflict with the Committee's decision. A further innovation was the provision of an Indoor Bowling Green at the Grove Lane Baths, Handsworth. This proved an immediate success, and there is no doubt that the facilities afforded are greatly appreciated by the many Level Green Bowlers in the City.



Indoor Bowling Green—Grove Lane Baths

COMMUNAL LAUNDRIES

The provision of laundering facilities in Birmingham's bathing establishments has so far met with little success.

There was a Public Laundry in the first Baths to be erected in Kent Street one hundred years ago and in 1928, a separate establishment was opened in St. George Street, Hockley, which offered housewives up-to-date facilities for dealing with the family laundry.

The Kent Street Public Laundry was well-patronised for a time, but gradually the custom declined until in 1877, it was closed and a Turkish Baths was installed in that part of the premises occupied by the Laundry.

In the case of the closing of the Kent Street Laundry, the reason given was that it was no longer being used by the housewives of the district for whom it was intended, but that its few remaining patrons were merely using the facilities to suit their own convenience in undertaking other people's laundry.

It has not been possible to go further than into the reports periodically issued during the life of the Kent Street Laundry, but a close examination of these reveals that almost from the date of its opening, quick drying of the washed articles could not be obtained by means of the apparatus installed. The reports show that attempts were continually being made to speed up the process of drying, but satisfactory results appear never to have been achieved. This meant that housewives using the laundry had to remain on the premises for the better part of the day and they no doubt considered that the advantages of the laundry so far as the washing processes were concerned, were outweighed by the disadvantages of the drying process to such an extent that they preferred

to carry out the whole of the operations, whatever the inconvenience may have been, in their homes, without so much waste of time. However, the Kent Street Public Laundry did survive for a period of twentysix years and this with only hand washing stalls and the drying apparatus referred to.

The St. George Street Laundry met with swifter fate. Within three years of its opening in 1928, the Baths Committee reported to the Council that the project was a failure and that it proposed to close the laundry, dispose of the equipment and make the premises available as a Cottage Baths.

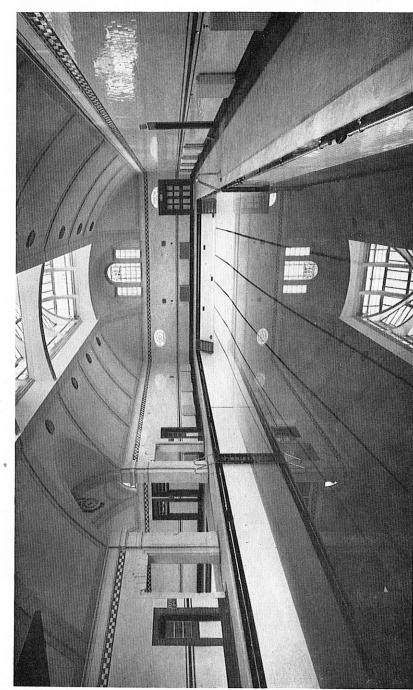
So far as the closing of the St. George Street Laundry was concerned, it was presumed that the falling off in patronage was attributable to the fact that Birmingham housewives apparently preferred to do their washing at home, however large the task and however limited were their facilities for washing, drying and ironing; in other words that it was the communal aspect of the laundry that decided them against using the facilities provided.

The St. George's Street Laundry was equipped with washing machines, hydro-extractors, drying closets and ironing facilities, but from all accounts, history repeated itself in that difficulty was again experienced in ensuring the quick drying of the washed clothes—probablyt he most important operation of laundering. A further complication was that the washing machines and hydro-extractors because of their size, were used for more than one housewife's washing at the same time and there was understandable objection to this. As a result the washing machines were eventually removed and replaced by hand washing stalls. Although this overcame the objection to the machines, the drudgery of washing by hand remained and this coupled with the lack of adequate drying facilities, which difficulty was apparently not overcome, hastened the end of the Baths Committee's second experiment.

With the full knowledge of the facts regarding the previous Public Laundries, the Baths Committee are once more contemplating the provision of Communal Laundries—as they are now called—in those areas of the City where housewives, who normally do their own washing and who it is known are severely handicapped through lack of facilities in their homes, may carry out the family washing efficiently and at reasonable charges. That there is need for Communal Laundries, although apparent in the areas of the City concerned, has been confirmed by enquiries among the residents and the Baths Committee feels that the time is ripe for the re-introduction of this service.

To avoid a repetition of the previous circumstances, the new Communal Laundries will be equipped with washing machines of a size suitable for one family's laundry, with use of a hydro-extractor to each machine, drying closets which will ensure the drying of a large wash in from 15-30 minutes, ironing machinery and handwashing facilities for small articles. Using this equipment, it is estimated that a large family wash can be completed in under $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours, a boon which need not be stressed to any housewife.

A booking system will ensure the use of the necessary facilities between set times each week and eventually powers will be sought to transport the weekly wash to and from the Communal Laundry.



Large Pool—Northfield Baths

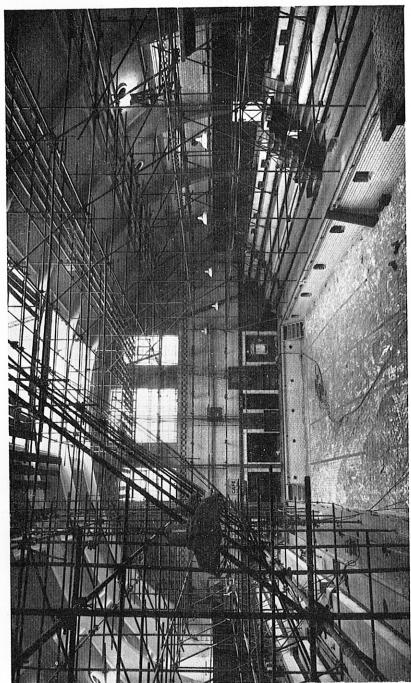
LOOKING FORWARD

This record of the growth of the Baths Department during the one hundred years of its existence, has been compiled not only to mark the Department's Centenary, but to give some account of the part succeeding Baths Committees have played in providing the citizens of Birmingham with a baths service of which they might well be proud.

It is no secret that in the earliest days Baths Committees sometimes found it an extremely difficult matter to obtain a majority in the Council Chamber to advance their plans for services which nowadays are accepted by all as essential to the health and recreation of the people, and what has been achieved speaks for itself.

There has always been a great demand in the City for washing bath facilities, and increasing attendances are recorded each year under this heading. As is evident from the Medical Officer of Health's Report to the Public Health Department on the Housing Survey of 1946*, there are still areas where washing baths are required—mainly in those districts where no redevelopment is scheduled for some time—and sites are being acquired for the erection of further Cottage Baths where necessary.

So far as swimming is concerned, Birmingham has a fine record in the number and quality of its baths and over the years improvements, by the installation of the latest types of plant and machinery and methods of securing the most hygienic conditions were rapidly introduced. Indeed some of the earliest experiments in continuous water filtration and chlorination which were eventually to replace the somewhat haphazard emptying and filling of baths as a means of providing reasonably safe conditions, were successfully carried out in our establishments, thus more or less anticipating the *Page 79.



Modernisation in Progress-Woodcock Street Gala Bath

Ministry of Health Order made in 1937 for such plant to be installed in all baths controlled by local authorities.

In addition to catering for the many thousands of the public who attend mainly for the pleasure of a bathe, a close co-operation has always been maintained with the Swimming Clubs and other bodies to meet the requirements of organised swimming, and the arrangements made for the schoolchildren are examples of the co-operation which exists between Corporation Departments.

It is not possible just at present due to economic conditions, to embark on the Committee's plans for future swimming bath establishments, but there is no doubt that the buildings to be erected will be of the most up-to-date in design, and will include those features which it is realised are essential to the swimmer of today. To this end many attractive sites have been acquired in various parts of the City, and much information has been obtained by visiting baths in other Cities and Towns, both in this country and on the Continent.

In the meantime, the various establishments are undergoing extensive repair and decoration found necessary after the War years, and premises are being modernised by the installation of new plant, machinery and lighting.

We look forward to the future, but in so doing pay tribute to those who made possible the facilities we enjoy today.

Extract from Report by the Medical Officer of Health to the City of Birmingham Public Health Department on the Housing Survey of 1946

| Municipal Ward | No. of separately occupied dwellings | No. of houses without bathroom accommodation | |
|------------------------------------|---|--|-------------|
| | 1946 | Bath, no Bathroom | No Bath. |
| CENTRAL WARDS | | | |
| Market Hall | 3,533 | 833 | 2,531 |
| St. Bartholomews | 4,654 | 727 | 3,609 |
| St. Mary's | 4,029 | 933 | 2,940 |
| Duddeston and Nechells | 6,686 | 1,738 | 4,696 |
| St. Martin's and Deritend | 5,033 | 1,142 | 3,461 |
| St. Paul's | 5,662 | 2,051 | 3,496 |
| Ladywood | 6,529 | 1,155 | 5,165 |
| MIDDLE RING | | | |
| Aston | 7,559 | 2,423 | 4,693 |
| Washwood Heath | 8,427 | 1,607 | 1,537 |
| Saltley | 6,503 | 1,273 | 3,314 |
| Small Heath | 7,274 | 2,161 | 3,083 |
| Sparkbrook | 7,034 | 1,243 | 4,616 |
| Balsall Heath | 0.100 | 1,583 | 5,250 |
| Edgbaston | 7.014 | 969 | 804 |
| All Saints | 7.07. | 3,097 | 3,997 |
| Rotton Park | F 600 | 2,085 | 4,411 |
| Lozells | 7.000 | 1,896 | 4,837 |
| OUTER RING | 7,000 | 1,000 | 1,057 |
| G 11 TT:11 | 7,454 | 813 | 1,047 |
| / | 0.000 | 2,250 | 1,069 |
| _ , | 7 242 | 2,456 | 1,607 |
| | 0.704 | 2,463 | 1,084 |
| 0. 16 1 | 15.000 | 1,355 | 189 |
| Stechford | 9,213 | 1,401 | 3,023 |
| Sparkhill | 10.216 | 3,290 | 5,023 |
| Hall Green | | 3,540 | 555 |
| Acock's Green | | | 1,046 |
| Moseley and King's Heath | | 2,144 | |
| Selly Oak | | 2,586 | 1,560 |
| Northfield | | 1,723 | 537 |
| King's Norton | | 973 | 1,784 |
| Harborne | | 996 | 1,334 |
| Soho | | 2,367 | 1,489 |
| Handsworth | | 2,000 | 1,147 |
| Perry Barr | | 2,495 | 42 |
| Sandwell | 6,277 | 1,338 | 1,407 |
| City as a whole | . 283,611 | 61,106 | 81,417 |
| No. in Redevelopment Areas : | | | |
| 1. Duddeston and Nechells . | | 1,100 | 4,094 |
| 2. Summer Lane | . 8,804 | 2,225 | 6,395 |
| 3. Ladywood | 7 212 | 1,132 | 6,028 |
| 4. Bath Row | 1 207 | 1,600 | 2,524 |
| 5. Gooch Street | 1.160 | 803 | 3,218 |
| TOTALS | . 29,763 | 6,860 | 22,259 |
| Total not in Redevelopment Areas . | . 253,848 | 54,246 | 59.158 |

ATTENDANCES, 1851-1950

| Year | No. | Year | No. | Year | No. |
|-------|---------|------|-----------|------|-----------|
| 1851 | 78,715 | 1893 | 340,290 | 1935 | 2,145,896 |
| 1852 | 95,819 | 1894 | 431,354 | 1936 | 2,029,088 |
| 1853 | 98,381 | 1895 | 318,864 | 1937 | 1,915,986 |
| 1854 | 104,368 | 1896 | 395,190 | 1938 | 2,157,647 |
| 1855 | 91,191 | 1897 | 401,745 | 1939 | 2,096,384 |
| 1856 | 95,926 | 1898 | 469,910 | 1940 | 1,708,050 |
| 1857 | 109,416 | 1899 | 467,026 | 1941 | 1,354,136 |
| 1858 | 79,931 | 1900 | 479,633 | 1942 | 1,313,167 |
| 1859 | 97,970 | 1901 | 357,104 | 1943 | 1,727,895 |
| 1860 | 100,556 | 1902 | 351,787 | 1944 | 1,779,332 |
| 1861 | 151,051 | 1903 | 355,203 | 1945 | 1,942,790 |
| 1862 | 167,646 | 1904 | 445,343 | 1946 | 2,320,819 |
| 1863 | 200,968 | 1905 | 502,760 | 1947 | 2,412,323 |
| 1864 | 207,417 | 1906 | 501,600 | 1948 | 2,610,273 |
| 1865 | 236,229 | 1907 | 540,238 | 1949 | 2,886,148 |
| 1866 | 185,498 | 1908 | 464,697 | 1950 | 3,186,811 |
| 1867 | 190,927 | 1909 | 533,616 | | , , |
| 1868 | 220,931 | 1910 | 525,913 | | |
| 1869 | 189,877 | 1911 | 592,047 | | |
| 1870 | 178,388 | 1912 | 704,755 | | |
| 1871 | 194,850 | 1913 | 1,034,391 | | |
| 1872 | 198,394 | 1914 | 1,251,856 | | |
| 1873 | 207,516 | 1915 | 1,373,120 | | |
| 1874 | 214,840 | 1916 | 1,158,044 | | |
| 1875 | 289,174 | 1917 | 1,230,994 | | |
| 1876 | 294,532 | 1918 | 1,395,182 | | |
| 1877 | 246,266 | 1919 | 1,370,104 | | |
| 1878 | 282,875 | 1920 | 1,467,717 | | |
| 1879 | 247,399 | 1921 | 1,640,124 | | |
| 1880 | 309,227 | 1922 | 1,329,591 | | |
| 1881 | 299,058 | 1923 | 1,466,495 | | |
| 1882 | 308,022 | 1924 | 1,434,594 | | |
| 1883 | 385,971 | 1925 | 1,567,736 | | |
| 1884 | 445,545 | 1926 | 1,707,406 | | |
| 1885 | 348,346 | 1927 | 1,265,554 | | |
| 1886 | 339,015 | 1928 | 1,727,448 | | |
| 1887 | 356,632 | 1929 | 1,804,797 | | |
| 1888 | 300,842 | 1930 | 1,809,128 | | |
| 1889 | 347,253 | 1931 | 1,791,313 | | |
| 1890* | 27,797 | 1932 | 1,695,120 | | |
| 1891 | 344,993 | 1933 | 1,932,975 | | |
| 1892 | 339,693 | 1934 | 2,123,702 | | |

^{*} Financial Year End changed from 31st December to 31st March.

BYE-LAWS

FOR THE

MANAGEMENT, USE AND REGULATION OF THE PUBLIC BATHS

General

1. Throughout these bye-laws the expression 'the Council' means the Lord Mayor, Aldermen and Citizens of the City of Birmingham, acting by the Council, and the expressions 'public baths', 'bath' and 'swimming bath' include an open bathing place.

These bye-laws shall not apply to any swimming bath when the same is covered over by the Council and utilised or let for meetings, entertainments or other purpose.

- 2. Every person resorting to the public baths shall, before being admitted to any bath or bathroom, obtain, by payment, from the authorised money-taker a ticket whereon shall be stated, in addition to such other particulars as the Council may from time to time direct, the class or description of bath to which such person shall be entitled to be admitted, and such person shall, on being admitted to use any bath, deliver to the bath attendant or other servant employed thereat such ticket of admission as shall have been issued by the authorised money-taker.
- 3. A person shall not knowingly occupy any private bath room or any dressing room in a swimming bath for a longer period than thirty minutes, nor any dressing room in the Turkish Bath Department for a longer period than two hours, unless such person shall upon demand being made by

the Superintendent (or by the bath attendant acting upon his instructions) pay to such Superintendent a sum equal to the amount previously paid by such person as a charge for admission to such bath room or swimming bath.

- 4. A person resorting to the public baths shall not, by forcible or improper means, seek admission to any bath room or dressing room before any person who, by priority of payment, shall be entitled to prior admission to such bath.
- 5. A person resorting to the public baths shall not use any bath of a higher class or description than that of the bath for which he shall have obtained a ticket of admission.
- 6. Every person resorting to the public baths shall, while waiting on the premises for admission to any bath or bath room, remain only in such portion of the premises as shall be set apart as a waiting room or waiting place for intending bathers. A person shall not enter any other part of the establishment except that for which he shall have obtained a ticket.
- 7. A person resorting to the public baths shall not, after using any bath or quitting any bath room, dressing room or compartment, loiter or remain, without reasonable excuse, in any passage leading to or from any bath or bath room.
- 8. A male person above eight years old resorting to the public baths shall not enter or use any bath which shall be appointed or appropriated for the use of female persons or children under eight years old exclusively. Provided that this bye-law shall not be deemed to prohibit any swimming instructor or an official of the Amateur Swimming Association duly authorised by the Superintendent from entering a swimming bath.
- 9. A female person or child under eight years old resorting to the public baths shall not enter or use any bath

which shall be appointed or appropriated for the use of male persons above eight years old exclusively.

- 10. Every person resorting to the public baths shall, at all times, exercise reasonable and proper care in the use of any bath or bath room, dressing room, closet, box or compartment.
- any time, carelessly or negligently break, or injure, or improperly interfere with the due and efficient action of any lock, cock, valve, pipe, work or engine or machinery in connection with any bath, or carelessly or negligently, injure any furniture, fittings or conveniences of any bath, bath room dressing room, closet, box or compartment.
- 12. A person resorting to the public baths shall not, at any time, carelessly or negligently injure or destroy any towel or other linen, or other article supplied for his use.
- or servant or other person employed thereat, shall not, at any time, except in the case of illness or accident, introduce into the same any spirituous or intoxicating liquors, or drink any such liquor therein. A person resorting to any public bath, other than an open bathing place, shall not smoke tobacco or any like substance therein.
- 14. A person resorting to the public baths shall not, at any time, while being upon the premises use any indecent and offensive language, or behave in an indecent and offensive manner.
- 15. A person resorting to the public baths shall not, at any time, while being upon the premises, by any disorderly or improper conduct, disturb or interrupt any other person in the proper use of any bath, bath room, dressing room,

closet, box or compartment, or any officer, servant or person appointed or employed by the Council in the proper execution of his duty.

- 16. A person resorting to the public baths shall not cause or allow any dog belonging to such person, or under his control, to enter or remain in any bath, bath room, dressing room, closet, box or compartment, or in any passage leading to or from any bath or bath room.
- 17. A person resorting to the public baths shall not in any private bath room, or in any dressing room, closet, box or compartment, use any ointment or other medicinal preparation having an unpleasant or pungent odour.
- 18. A person resorting to the public baths shall not wilfully and improperly foul or pollute the water in any separate bath or in any swimming bath, or wilfully and improperly soil or defile any towel, bathing drawers or bathing dress supplied for his use, or any bath room, dressing room, closet, box or compartment, or any furniture or article therein.
- 19. A person resorting to the public baths shall not, at any time, while suffering from any cutaneous, infectious or contagious disease, enter or use any swimming bath or any separate bath.
- 20. A person resorting to the public baths finding an article which may have been left in any bath room or dressing room or in any other part of the establishment, shall immediately after finding such article deliver the same to the Superintendent or other person authorised to receive such articles.

Further Bye-Laws with respect to Swimming Baths

21. Any swimming bath may be used for the purpose of mixed bathing (that is to say by males and females bathing

together at the same time) between the hours of seven o'clock in the morning and nine o'clock in the evening on such days of the week as the Council may from time to time determine and indicate by a notice or notices, which shall be affixed or set up in some conspicuous position at or near to the entrance to the swimming bath. Provided that this bye-law shall be of no effect unless the Council shall during such hours provide separate dressing accommodation for males above eight years old and females respectively.

- swimming bath may be used for the purpose of mixed bathing, a person taking part therein shall whilst dressing and undressing use such dressing accommodation as shall have been provided by the Council in pursuance of that bye-law for the use of persons of the age and sex of such person, and shall keep the door thereof, if any, closed.
- 23. When in pursuance of the bye-law in that behalf a swimming bath may be used for the purpose of mixed bathing, a male person above eight years old shall not enter or use any dressing accommodation, room, closet, box or compartment provided and set apart for the use of female persons, and a female person shall not enter or use any dressing accommodation, room, closet, box or compartment provided and set apart for the use of male persons above eight years old.
- 24. A person whilst bathing in a swimming bath shall wear a costume proper and sufficient as regards thickness and otherwise to prevent indecent exposure, and a male person shall wear in addition when the swimming bath is being used for mixed bathing a pair of ordinary bathing drawers under the costume. Provided that when a swimming bath is appropriated for the use of male persons exclusively, the wearing of a pair of bathing drawers by a person bathing in such bath shall be a sufficient compliance with this bye-law.

- 25. A person resorting to the public baths shall not, by forcible or improper means, seek admission to any swimming bath at any time when such swimming bath or the dressing rooms, closets, boxes, or compartments attached thereto shall be occupied by the full number of persons authorised to use, at one and the same time, such swimming bath or dressing rooms, closets, boxes or compartments.
- 26. A person resorting to the public baths shall not, at any time after being admitted to any swimming bath, or while occupying any dressing room, closet, box or compartment attached thereto, enter or seek admission to any other dressing room, closet, box or compartment, when occupied by any person, without the consent of such person, or otherwise knowingly intrude upon or interfere with the privacy of any other person using such swimming bath or occupying any dressing room, closet, box or compartment attached thereto.
- 27. A person resorting to the public baths shall not, at any time, while being in any swimming bath, use any soap or other substance or preparation whereby the water in such swimming bath may be rendered turbid or unfit for the proper use of bathers.
- 28. A person resorting to the public baths shall not wilfully use any swimming bath if and so long as he is in a dirty condition and until he shall have properly cleansed himself in the bath provided for that purpose.

Further Bye-Laws with respect to Bath Rooms with separate Baths

- 29. A person resorting to the public baths shall not, by forcible or improper means, seek admission to any bath-room or compartment which shall be occupied by any person using a separate bath.
- 30. A person resorting to the public baths shall not, at any time, after being admitted to or while occupying any bath

room or compartment containing a separate bath, enter or seek admission from such bath room or compartment to any adjoining bath room or compartment when occupied by any person, or otherwise knowingly intrude upon, or interfere with the privacy of any person occupying any adjoining bath room or compartment. Provided that this bye-law shall not be taken to prohibit the use of any bath room or compartment by a child under the age of eight years and one of its parents or some other person bona fide in charge of such child.

Penalties

31. Every person resorting to the public baths who shall offend against any of the foregoing bye-laws shall be liable for every such offence to a penalty of forty shillings.

Provided nevertheless that the Court of Summary Jurisdiction before whom any proceedings may be taken in respect of any such offence may, if the Court think fit, adjudge the payment, as a penalty, of any sum less than the full amount of the penalty imposed by this bye-law.

Repeal

32. From and after the date of the approval of these bye-laws, the bye-laws relating to the management, use and regulation of the Public Baths and Open Bathing places which were respectively made by the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of the Borough of Birmingham acting by the Council on the 5th day of May, 1885, and which were approved by the Local Government Board on the 30th day of July, 1885, and the bye-laws relating to the management, use and regulation of the Public Baths which were made by the Lord Mayor, Aldermen and Citizens of the City of Birmingham, acting by the Council, on the 13th day of August, 1915, and which were approved by the Local Government Board on the 23rd day of August, 1915, shall be repealed.

The Common Seal of the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Citizens of the City of Birmingham was hereto affixed this Twenty-Fourth day of July, 1925.

F. H. C. WILTSHIRE,

Town Clerk.

The foregoing Bye-laws for the management, use and regulation of the Public Baths and Open Bathing Places are hereby approved by the Minister of Health this Seventh day of October, 1925.

E. TUDOR OWEN,

Assistant Secretary,

Ministry of Health.

Corporate Seal

Seal of the Ministry of Health