

to the poor in the pigeon-holes over the boxes, let to the great, that visit the house that Jack built". Jack Kemble, reserved, aristocratic in manner, the companion of peers and princes, but a common player, was an obvious target.

Once the row was over, however, Kemble and his theatre prospered. He put on spectacular shows, with performing animals and highly paid singers, but he also stuck to his Shakespeare, and his farewell season of 1816-17 was marked by scenes of great enthusiasm and reiterated requests that he should continue to act occasionally. But he was old and ill, and in 1818 he retired to Lausanne, where he died in 1823.

Kemble is a paradoxical figure in the history of the English stage. In building his two vast theatres in London he was the first English manager to break away from the coterie theatre of the eighteenth century and so to make possible the genuinely popular theatre of the nineteenth. Where Garrick had played to "the Town", a largely homogeneous audience like the regulars at a modern repertory house, Kemble, with his thousands of seats and his spectacular bills suited to a variety of tastes, seems to have sensed a great new audience among the lower middle classes. But it was just this group that he offended with his private boxes, high prices, and aristocratic bearing. It was just this group that relished the "romantic", melodramatic style of acting that supplanted Kemble's Grand Manner. In short, Kemble created the conditions in which his successor, Edmund Kean, could triumph over his memory.

H. A. JONES

THE BICENTENARY OF WARRINGTON ACADEMY

The bicentenary of the Warrington Academy was celebrated in Warrington from 20-26 October 1957. The highlight of the celebrations was a dinner in the Masonic Hall on Thursday 24 October at which Dr. J. Bronowski was the principal guest speaker. Dr. Bronowski said that in his view the Academy "was an institution of pioneer importance both in the factual and spiritual education of England. During its whole history there were fewer than four hundred students, but they and their teachers brought about a remarkable change in two separate ways. They were the men, they and their students, and their students in turn, who made the Industrial Revolution, and they did not make it by mechanical skill but because they

learned here an intellectual approach which balked at nothing and looked upon everything afresh. It was this intellectual attitude which made the Industrial Revolution possible and which made it great. Secondly, it was made possible because these people formed a kind of education which was quite unique. They broke the old spell of vocational education which was mainly designed for men who were entering the theological or medical professions”.

The Academy first came into being on 26 October 1757 largely as a result of the determined efforts of the Rev. John Seddon, minister of Cairo Street Chapel, Warrington. It was established by Lancashire nonconformists to provide a higher education that would be free from the religious tests imposed at Oxford and Cambridge. It was established upon a more liberal basis than other dissenting academies, however, and quickly attracted a wide variety of students from all parts of Great Britain and the Colonies, as well as a band of distinguished tutors. The tutors included Dr. Joseph Priestley, Dr. John Reinhold Forster, William Enfield, Dr. John Aikin, George Walker and Gilbert Wakefield: the students Dr. Thomas Percival, John Aikin, John Wedgwood, T. R. Malthus, Samuel Galton, John Wilkinson and George Forster.

The bicentenary celebrations began with a civic service in Cairo Street Chapel, Warrington on Sunday, 20 October. The Rev. Eric Wild, B.A., conducted the service which was attended by the Mayor and Mayoress of Warrington, Councillor and Mrs. H. G. Brandwood, and representatives of the town council and local societies. On Monday, 21 October, an exhibition of books, manuscripts, models and illustrations was opened in the Old Academy, Bridge Foot, by the mayor. This exhibition (organised by the Warrington Library and Museum Committee) remained open to the public for a week. A determined effort had been made to obtain copies of every important book and manuscript connected with the Academy, and libraries in Manchester, Liverpool, Birmingham, Oxford, Newcastle, Norwich and Preston had co-operated. The original minute books and register of admissions preserved at Manchester College, Oxford, had been microfilmed and photocopied, and these photographic records were also displayed and are now available in the Warrington Municipal Library.

After the Exhibition was opened a public lecture on the Academy was given by Mr. G. A. Carter, Borough Librarian. This lecture was sponsored by the Warrington Literary and Philosophical and Warrington Philomathic Societies and was attended by about 150 people.

The dinner on 24 October was sponsored by the Warrington Society and was attended by the president of the society, Mr. J. Hawthorn; the mayor and mayoress; Dr. J. Bronowski; the Right Hon. Dr. Edith Summerskill, M.P. for Warrington, and about 130 members and friends. During the dinner Dr. Summerskill presented Dr. Bronowski with a specially bound copy of William Turner's *Historical Account of the Warrington Academy*. This book had been reprinted by the Warrington Library and Museum Committee as another effort to mark the bicentenary. The work has never before appeared in book form as it was originally published in "The Monthly Repository" 1813-15 as a series of articles. The present edition had been edited with an introduction by Mr. G. A. Carter, and the Rev. E. Wild had collaborated in the preparation of an index. Illustrations and a bibliography also helped in the production of a useful edition of an important source book about the Academy and its students.

The Warrington Society and the Warrington Corporation shared the responsibility of pointing and painting the Old Academy Building which was floodlit during the celebrations.

All the activities in connection with the bicentenary had been planned by a joint committee consisting of representatives of the Warrington Society, the Warrington Library and Museum Committee, and Cairo Street Chapel, Warrington.

G. A. CARTER
Secretary to the Committee