

raised ground which may have been part of a terrace or a hanging garden, close behind the Hall. From the curvature in the surface of these, to allow the rain to run off, their want of accommodation for numerous spectators, and the nature of the adjoining ground, Mr. Brooke infers that they were not used by spectators at tournaments. The mount or hillock near the south end of each terrace, he regards as the position of a summer-house. The excavation supposed to have been a cock-pit, he supposes was merely a fish-pond, but admits that it might have served the former purpose. The excellent garden wall, which surrounds these remains on three sides, accounts in a great degree, it is supposed, for the good state of preservation in which they have remained till now. The ponds which exist, and others of which indications only are found, Mr. Brooke thinks were places for breeding fish, and never used for water jousts. Examples of pleasure grounds similar to those which he supposes to have existed at Gawsworth, were mentioned as having been formerly at Belvoir Castle, Risley in Derbyshire, Rock Savage and Broxton Hall in Cheshire. There were similar fish-ponds at Ashby-de-la-Zouch; and the other appearances were common. No part of the Church seems older than temp. Henry IV.

2. Mr. Brooke also made a communication relative to the old House of Correction of Liverpool to the following effect:

"The old House of Correction of Liverpool stood in Mount Pleasant, but for many years has not been used as a prison. I however can recollect prisoners being taken there, when I was a youth. It was built in 1776.

"A letter from Mr. James Neild, the philanthropist, dated 16th October, 1803, and which has been published in the Gentleman's Magazine* of that year, contains the following observations, on the House of Correction, after a personal inspection of it: 'The House of Correction built in 1776, is much improved since my former visit. The wanton severity of the Ducking Stool used upon a woman's first admission, is now discontinued, (it was formerly the punishment, in almost every Country Town in Cheshire and Lancashire, for scolds and brawling women.)'

"It is much to be regretted, that Mr. Neild has not given us the date of his first visit to the prison, but it must have been subsequently to 1776, because the prison was not erected before that year. The above passage is a remarkable one, for it may be read, as if he meant it to convey to the reader the impression, that the Ducking Stool had been used, after the prison was erected; otherwise his expression 'the Ducking Stool used upon a woman's first admission is now discontinued,' seems scarcely applicable.

"In Cheshire, the Ducking Stool for punishing women, was usually called the 'Cucking Stool.' There are many other reasons for believing that this barbarous mode of punishment was discontinued at a much later period than is generally imagined. My father has seen in a part of Cheshire where he was at school, in a pond called the Cuckstool Pond, the upright post or standard, which had been part of the apparatus, for ducking women, and it was called the Cuckstool, or Cucking-stool; and not many years ago, I saw the title deeds of some property, near Macclesfield, in which it was described, as situate in 'the Cucking-stool Land.'

* Vol. lxxiii., page 1104.

"A strong presumption of the use of such a mode of punishment, in comparatively modern times, is afforded, by a note, at the foot of Mr. Neild's remarks, in which he states as follows: 'What I have called a Ducking Stool, in Cheshire called a Cucking Stool, i.e. a Choaking Stool. It is a standard, fixed at the entrance of a pond; to this is attached a long pole, at the extremity of which, is fastened a chair, in this the woman is placed, and undergoes a thorough ducking, thrice repeated. Such a one within the memory of persons now living, was in the great reservoir, in the Green Park.'"

3. Dr. Kendrick, of Warrington, exhibited the ancient "Plague Stone" from the neighbourhood of that town, and explained the facts connected with it. During the Plague, in 1665, it formed part of the rounded coping of court yard wall, of a farm house. It was situated in the Wash Lane, Latchford. Tradition uniformly asserts that the Plague prevailed here, though there no historic notices of it; and that the money in payment for provisions and other necessaries, was deposited in the square hollow of the stone, in a mixture of vinegar and water. All communication with the inmates was of course cut off. The idea has gained strength of late that there were no such things as Plague Stones; for, no fewer than ten have been shown to be the sockets of way-side crosses. That was quite impossible in the present case, as the cavity is only four and a half inches square, and two deep. The stone also stood on private property, forty yards from the high road, and the date of the house is the *Puritan* one 1650. It is said that those who died of the pestilence were buried in an adjacent croft, for in such circumstances, interments in unconsecrated ground were not unusual; and in 1843, several skeletons were found at the spot. The accompanying view shows the house, the stepping stones in the lane, and the spot (A) where the stone stood.

PAPERS.

I.—LIVERPOOL CHURCHES AND CHAPELS; THEIR DESTRUCTION, REMOVAL, OR ALTERATION:

WITH NOTICES OF CLERGYMEN, MINISTERS, AND OTHERS.

By Rev. D. Thom, D.D., Ph. D., one of the Vice-Presidents of the Society.

PART I.

It has struck me as likely to prove interesting to members of the Historic Society, were I to bring under their notice, within a reasonable compass, a view of the changes which have occurred in connection with ecclesiastical edifices now existing, or which at a former period have existed, in the town of Liverpool. Facts lying scattered throughout the pages of our local historians might, I have conceived, be brought together—circumstances not known generally, or if known hitherto untouched on, might be adverted to—and parties who, although possessed of temporary