

of Free and Accepted Masons of England, whose reduced circumstances in life might prevent them affording their female offspring a suitable education." The Institution soon clustered around it the support of benevolent and influential craftsmen. His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, and other members of the Royal family, together with numbers of the nobility and gentry of the land, gave to it their hearty encouragement and support, and its success soon became a matter, not of speculation, but of certainty.

The first building for the use of the School was erected in 1793, on leasehold ground near the Obelisk, St. George's Fields, the ground being the property of the Corporation of the City of London, at a cost of £3,000, which was soon more than doubled by the necessary enlargements and repairs. At that time the building was in the country, in an open space, with plenty of fresh air about it. The city, however, gradually encroached upon it; and when, in 1851, the lease expired, two objections, both fatal, existed to its renewal. In the first place, the city had extended its limits to St. George's; and what was formerly fields, was now a busy, closely-packed suburb, more remarkable for the misery that existed among its inhabitants, than for the beauty of its buildings. The air was so impregnated with the odour of factories, that it was by common consent unsuited for the purpose of such an establishment as a girls' school. And second, although the site was not suited for the purpose for which it had been used, it had become more valuable, and no renewal of lease could be effected except at a large increase of rental. Accordingly, the managers of the Institution determined to select some other place; and after some consideration, the place where the building now stands was purchased, it being a beautiful spot of three acres, affording abundant room for gardens and play-grounds, in one of the healthiest spots about London, upon which a splendid brick edifice was erected. The peculiar attractions of this site are its proximity to railway accommodation, being but a few hundred feet from the Wandsworth Station of the London and Brighton Railway, and its proximity to churches. The erection of the new building involved a considerable outlay, and an appeal was made to the Craft, which was liberally responded to, as all such appeals have been in England.

The new premises gave facilities for enlarged usefulness. In it, the establishment consists of a matron, a governess, and four assistants; a gardener, whose wife assists in the household duties, and three female servants. The system of education has been greatly enlarged, the girls remaining in the School until they are sixteen years of age. Of that system, the writer is in a position to speak from personal observation, and it is impossible to speak too highly of it. The testimony of the examiner of the French classes may, however, be cited, with this observation, that the same thoroughness characterizes the instruction in all