

Healthy Recreation.

More than 40 years ago when "Penny Readings" were doing so much good John Francis Bursill was known as a Clever Actor and Elocutionist, a reputation he still enjoys. He took Halls and directed Entertainments in the poorest parts of London. His work in the Slums of Westminster is well remembered. Later on the "Happy Evenings" he organized at Battersea Baths, pioneered the great Sunday League Gatherings. His Lantern Lectures, especially on Local History, have delighted thousands. He was the first to teach Local History in the Board Schools, and the School Board for London acquired many of his unique Slides and much of his laboriously collected information. He was a great helper to such men, as the Rev. Geo. M. Murphy, the Rev. Newman Hall and other Friends of Popular Education and Temperance.

J. Francis Bursill was the first man to propose a Polytechnic for Battersea, his advocacy founded it. The famous Bramblebury Fete, which gave that great Institution a start, was mainly the outcome of his enthusiasm, zeal, and labour. For the Early Closing movement J. Francis Bursill laboured incessantly. The Book "Death and Disease behind the Counter" had much from his pen, and he splendidly aided Sir John Lubbock, Canon Shuttleworth, and other friends of labour.

Charity.

Many hundreds of able articles have been written by Mr. J. Francis Bursill, which have greatly helped the Brompton Hospital for Consumption, the Hospital for Children and Women, the Bolingbroke Hospital, the Colleges for the Blind, &c., &c. He had a "Ballad" or Story always ready for every occasion.

Especially do we remember that, in spite of much opposition, Mr. Bursill proposed and organized a great Pageant—three miles long, for the "Daily Telegraph Fund" for the Widows and Children of those who fell in the South African War. This Pageant, and the Banquet to Battersea heroes which followed it were marked by much of his originality, and added £1,200 to the Daily Telegraph Fund.