

A Backward Glance into the History of Kingswood and Dulwich

— Contributed by Nursing Sister Joice —

How vastly different are the charms of the old world to those of the new! Out in the vast new world of America, history to us dates back to the days of which our grandmothers tell of the landing from the Old World, of the early pioneers, the clearing of a little spot on the forest clad hills, and from thence to the making of our present day progressive country, of which we are so justly proud.

Here in the European World every town, village or country road has connected with it some incident relative to ancient or modern history. One can readily understand the attitude of the Frenchman, who, while visiting America, was asked how he liked the country. "Oh," he remarked, "I want to go back. I cannot live on this air you breathe, it is too thin! Take me back to Europe where the air is filled with the ghosts of the past!"

And so to the history lover, Old England is dotted with interesting evidences relative to sad times, glad times, romance and tragic drama, enacted during the centuries through which she has figured in the history of the world.

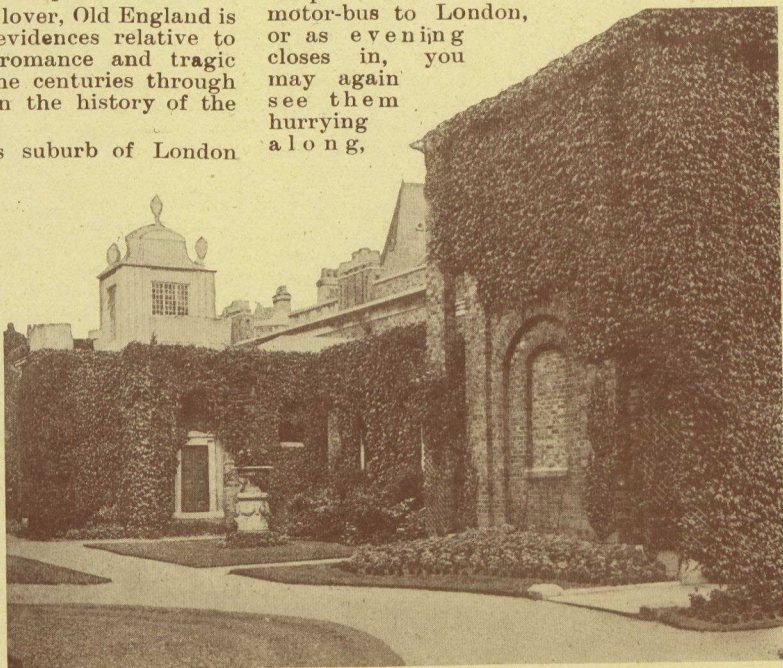
Nor is Dulwich, this suburb of London where so many of our Canadian boys are spending happy days of convalescence, least among these landmarks of history.

The word "Dulwich," translated into Anglo-Saxon, means the village in the valley, and as one walks through this one-time village, now forming a part of the world's largest city, it is hard to picture it as it was in those days of which historians write, when it was a Royal domain, at least a century before the Norman Conquest, and a jewel in the kingly crown of Saxon, Norman and Tudor.

The history of the Manor commences with King Edgar, who in 976, gave Dilwichs, as it was then called, to one of his Thanes. In the next century, the owner was Harold, the last of the Saxon kings who vainly strove to stem the tide of Norman conquest and civilization that overflowed the land. Then came William the Conqueror and took possession.

Dulwich Common no doubt formed from early times a Royal hunting ground, hence the name Kingswood. Charles I and his Court frequently came here for sport and gallants from London came to Dulwich Common to fight duels.

Gipsy Hill, about ten minutes walk from Kingswood Convalescent Home, where early in the afternoon of almost any day, may be seen our Canadian lads hastening their foot-steps to catch the motor-bus to London, or as evening closes in, you may again see them hurrying along,



Dulwich Picture Gallery.