

OLICANA MUSEUM & HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSPAPER CUTTINGS OF LOCAL HISTORICAL  
INTEREST

VOL XI(a) DEC 78; 5 JAN 79 & 14 APR 79

G-12

1st Dec. 1978

## ACROSS THE YEARS

# TWO INNS DEMOLITION A MORAL IMPROVEMENT

### 100 Years Ago

Mr. W. H. Conyers complained that refuse was being tipped in Cowpasture Road just above his residence, which was not just only an eyesore but had the effect of fouling the stream of water which ran near the place where the rubbish was emptied. The Local Board Chairman and others testified to the very unsightly appearance presented by the nuisance complained of and the matter was unanimously referred to the Street and Drainage Committee.

The Rev. F. T. White, curate at Ilkley Parish Church, received from the parishioners a purse containing 100 guineas in recognition of his work among them for a period. Mr. White said his ministry in Ilkley had been one continuous source of pleasure and he could only hope that the future of his Ilkley friends would be as happy as they wished his to be.

While Robert Collyer during one of his many visits to Ilkley was watching the Lord Mayor's coach in London he was approached by a rough looking man who said he used to blow the bellows at Ilkley whilst Collyer beat out iron. Collyer left the coach and went off to have a meal with the old man. It was, said the Ilkley Gazette, a piece of rudeness of which Mr. Collyer should be ashamed. To greet his old friends was natural and proper; to arrange to dine or sup with him would have been equally so; but to be unmindful of an engagement which he had made and disappoint a company—even a fashionable company, expecting him, ought to be considered rude and ungentlemanly. Mr. Collyer wrote next day in the Times that their comments were fair and justified. All that was wrong with the story was that it was untrue. It was a bit of fiction by a local reporter who found a man who had once worked with Collyer who was staying with his sister at the time.

### 75 Years Ago

A letter to the Gazette by Mr. J. W. Dixon was warmly received by another writer who thought it behoved every ratepayer to assist in stemming such "a pernicious and intolerable deed of favouritism as the Council are apparently bent upon." Wrote the contributor who did not give his name. "It is an acknowledged fact that the bottom of Brook Street needs improving and that the demolition of the two public houses which stand at the bottom of the town will be no detriment to the town but will be a moral improvement. . . . Beyond this expenditure the Council have no right or justification to use the ratepayers money for the furthering and assisting of the Wharfedale Syndicate or any other syndicate. The writer accepted that a bridge should be erected at this particular point but said there was no right to expect that Ilkley ratepayers should assist them in their private speculations. Was it right that money should be thrown away in this manner? It was beyond all comprehension that the Council should betray that trust that had been placed in them. "Such an empty and frivolous statement as Ilkley's prosperity depends upon it and on the opening out of the Middleton Estate is childish in the extreme. Is this the extent of common sense, foresight and wisdom that our Council is blessed with and that Ilkley's prosperity is hanging in the balance and waiting for the development. If so then I say, poor miserable creatures you are occupying a false position. There was a crowded congregation to hear the Rev. J. H. Kempson, former curate under his father, address the worshippers at Ilkley Parish Church. He spoke on "Keep yourselves in the love of God."

The annual sheep fair was

Best half bred lambs made up to 27s. and those of ordinary quality found prices ruling between 18s. to 25s. Half bred ewes sold at prices up to 52s. while half-bred shearlings made up to 40s.

### 50 Years Ago

The annual meeting of the Wells House Hotel showed much lower profits than in previous years, and the chairman thought that there had been a change of habits of the holiday public. He said that the current trend was to be on the road and not settle down for any time in one place. Also shortage of money and reduced dividend on investments was causing hardship, and the facilities for holidays abroad. The total surplus for the year was £3,978. Bookings for the Christmas period however were satisfactory, being fully booked for both bedrooms and public rooms.

A fierce gale had swept down Wharfedale leaving widespread damage to property in its wake. Falling trees had blocked roads, the river Wharfe was in flood, and much damage had been done to sports grounds.

An epidemic of scarlet fever in the area resulted in 46 cases being taken to the Wharfedale Isolation Hospital, probably stemming from an outbreak of fever in Leeds.

The announcement of the resignation by C. P. Holliday of the captaincy of Ilkley Rugby Union Football Club was a shock for members. He had secured a business appointment in London. He was succeeded by E. G. Rycroft the vice-captain for the remainder of the season. G. Senior-Smith, Ilkley's scrum half, also resigned from playing football.

### 25 Years Ago

Ilkley Urban District Council expected to have completed a total of 178 dwellings in the year ending December, 1953. A statement from Mr. J. Bowes, Chairman of the housing Committee, said that this record building had greatly improved the housing situation in the area.

The Drama Group of the Ilkley Townswomen's Guild presented 'After My Fashion' at the King's Hall, Ilkley. The leading lady was Mrs. Marjorie Gammon in the role of Lady Starcross. Also taking part were Kathleen Jones, Sylvia Walley, Alice Venning, Celia Williams, June Threlfall, Grace Cook, Greta Griffiths and Herbert C. Oldham. The play was produced by John A. Carswell.

Efforts to make Ilkley into a conference town reached a further stage when representatives from hotels met Ilkley Chamber of Trade and the Ilkley Council Publicity committee to discuss the matter. They agreed that every effort should be made to attract suitable conferences to Ilkley, and that the Council would allow free use of the King's Hall and the Annexe for conferences, with free facilities for the delegates during the summer months for tennis, bowls, swimming, etc. They ruled that the hotels and boarding houses would be afforded three months notice to accommodate the delegates.

8/12/78

## ACROSS THE YEARS

# F. W. Fison at Public Meeting on School Board

### 100 Years Ago

There was a meeting of Ilkley ratepayers in the Working Men's Hall in December 1874 and the Ilkley Gazette commented that the School Board question had become without question "an all absorbing topic in our midst and in fact it is the one subject for discussion among all classes of the community." It was not surprising there was a large and influential gathering at a meeting addressed by Mr. F. W. Fison. Mr. R. Armitage, chairman, said it had been called to give Mr. Fison an opportunity of explaining his views on the subject of the School Board and if he should be elected to it what he would seek to attain.

Mr. Fison said he had spoken several times about a school Board and it was to be his purpose to adopt three main heads. There were (1) By what steps had the School Board been brought to Ilkley; (2) What will be the cost; (3) What will it do? In the course of his comments Mr. Fison said he was sorry "the Board had come in these hard times as there were not so many children at present as when the memorial had been sent up, many having left the village. When the new schools were built there would be 49 children moved from the Middleton school. Finally he said he had no wish to create a rate or damage the National Schools, and he could only say that if it was decided to carry them on as denominational schools his belief was that the School Board would help to fill them and make them efficient. Replying to a questioner Mr. Fison said he was in favour of having the Bible read in schools but opposed to sectarian or dogmatic teaching in schools.

It was reported that the Chairman asked for a show of hands of those in favour of Mr. Fison's candidature but only a few hands were held up in response, and the number of those against him was still more limited, consequently he declared the meeting in favour of Mr. Fison, but acknowledged the vote by no means represented the feelings of the meeting as by far the greater part of those present were passive.

### 75 Years Ago

Ilkley Urban District Council at a special meeting accepted the report of a sub-committee and decided to build a free library on the eastern portion of the Town Hall site and for formulating a scheme to use the rest of the site. After plans had been moved for the work to be carried out Mr. J. A. Middlebrook spoke against the free library part of the scheme. He said he did not do this because he was opposed to education but because he regarded a free library in Ilkley more in the nature of a luxury than a necessity. A free library they could do very well without and he thought some of those for which small charges were made were not patronised as

they might be. He thought the gift of the library site was not in fact a gift but provided out of the rates. Mr. L. T. Learoyd did not agree with Mr. Middlebrook nor did some other people. It had at first been intended to make the prizes offered first of all as proposed by the minutes at £40, £20 and £10 but on the motion of Mr. J. W. Waugh, seconded by M. T. Smith, this was later altered to £100, £50 and £20.

The Right Rev. George Horfall Frodsham, Bishop of North Queensland was the preacher at the morning and evening service of St. Margaret's Church. He had been curate at the church in his younger days.

### 50 Years Ago

An Ilkley Boy Harry Barker, of Mornington Rd, showed considerable bravery in rescuing a dog which was trapped in a burning building at Ilkley. The dog, a wired-haired fox terrier, was the property of Mr. Fred Trees, greengrocer of Church Street. Barker's employer,

A "band of clever Ilkley entertainers" gave an evening of merriment to an audience at the Lecture Hall. The principal comedian was Mr. Geoffrey Rotheray and he was supported by Mr. Edward Hinchcliffe at the piano, Mr. Geoffrey Gaunt, Mr. Roland Wade, Miss Margee Prince, Misses Alice and Delta Jackson, and Miss Eileen Appleton with the band under the direction of Mr. Ray Best. The result was a miscellany of songs and concerted items, well presented dances and satirical "sketchlets".

Ilkley Boy's Brigade took over the Victoria Baths premises as a gymnasium for the company. The opening ceremony was performed by Lt. Col. J. Muller, supported by Capt. Scott and Mr. J. W. Dixon.

### 25 Years Ago

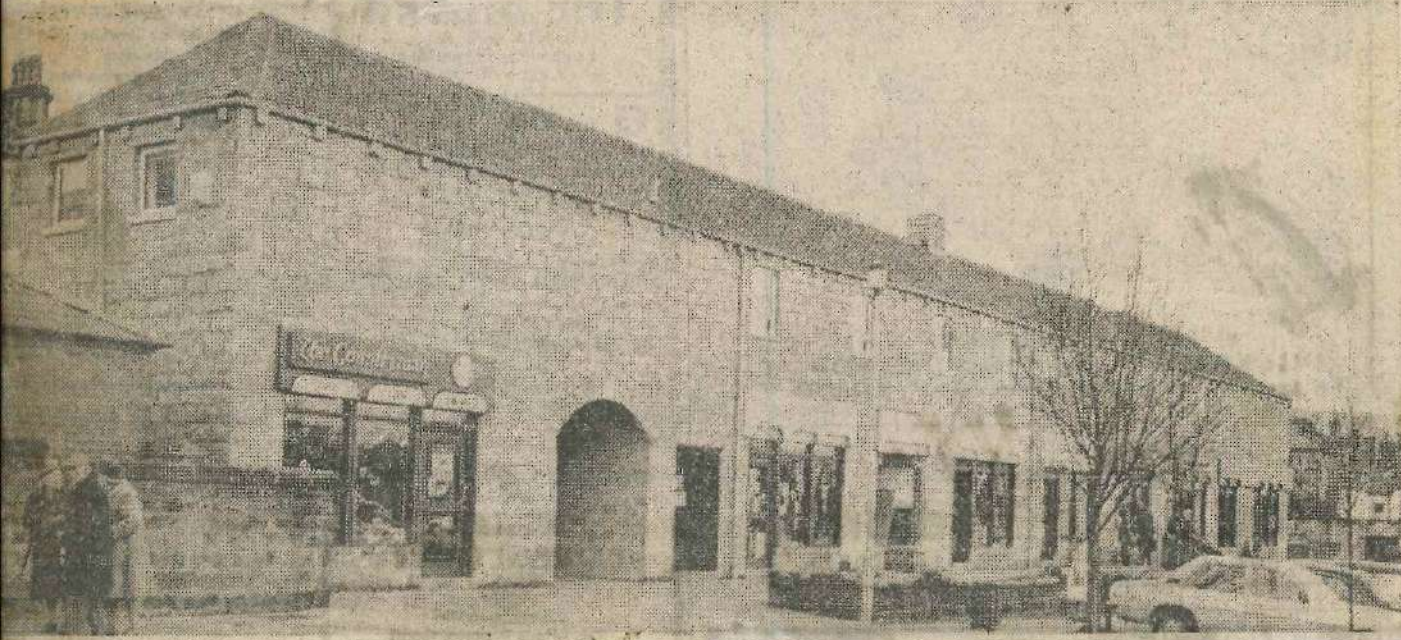
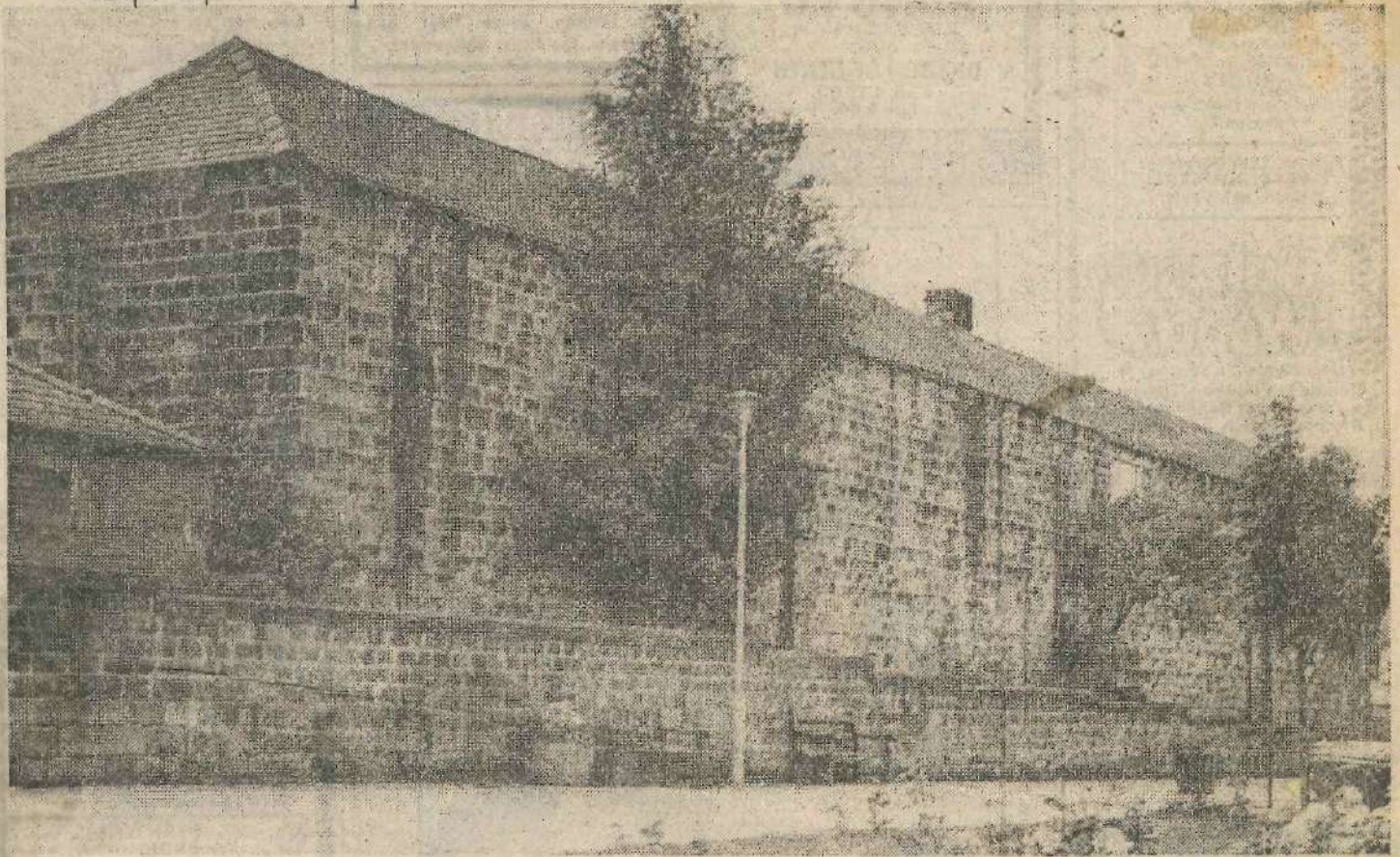
Ilkley Agricultural Society members decided at their annual meeting to discontinue their annual show and to wind up the society. The President, Mr. J. J. Harrison said their had been a net loss of £791 on the year's show and a loss of £683 over the three previous years.

Lt. Col. F. W. B. Maufe proposed the toast to the battery at the annual dinner of the 11th West Riding Howitzer Battery in the Rose and Crown Hotel, and Col. C. P. Petrie, the Chairman, responded. The toast to "Absent Friends" was given by Mr. J. R. Boden who reported that eight members had been lost during the previous year.

Miss Kathleen W. Smith of the 1st Addingham Guide Company was chosen to represent Girl Guides of the north-east region as a member of the guard of honour for Princess Margaret when she was to attend a gala performance of "Sinbad the Sailor" later in December at the Empress Hall, London.

T.C.R. OF ILKLEY

Telegraph & Argus 8 Dec 1978



## Ilkley's new central shopping precinct

A new shopping development adjoining the main car park in the centre of Ilkley, has now been completed and a wide variety of specialist shops is open to entice the shopping public.

Originally warehouses and shops on the Grove, the buildings were opened up to the car park by the removal of the former railway embankment and presented a fine opportunity for conversion into shopping parade.

After several years of frustrating planning delays the scheme came to fruition as a joint development by the Avenue Property and Investment Co., (Leigh) Ltd., who own The Grove, and Raven Development Co. Ltd., of Ilkley.

The scheme was prepared by the architectural department of Dacre, Son and Harley who are also the managing agents for the development.

Some of the shops have been open for a few weeks and already a considerable impact has been created by the introduction of high quality specialist shops into the town centre, attracting shoppers from a wide surrounding area.

● Pictures show the new shopping parade (left) and the original warehouses (above).

ACROSS THE YEARS

ILKLEY SCHOOL BOARD OPPORTUNITIES

100 Years Ago

Correspondence and meetings on the subject of the Ilkley School Board gave more opportunities for the discussion of this subject. Most important of these was a long discussion held in the Working Men's Hall in support of Samuel D. Hillman, James C. Naylor, and Henry Dobson. The meeting had Mr. W. H. Conyers as its Chairman and the report of it in the Gazette was submitted by someone anonymous who described it as "A communicated opinion." He completed his contribution with the comment "But apart from all money considerations, it may well be doubted whether men so blind to justice by sectarian prejudice as these are seen to be are really fit to rule a School Board. It rests with the electors to decide whether the Board shall become a blessing or a curse in disguise."

The Gazette thought in respect of the School Board election "that it was clearly visible to the public that the standard put forth of unsectarianism was a hollow one since it was impossible for any school board to adopt sectarian teaching. The question with the ratepayers was not one of religion but of finance and by bringing the result that has been achieved it will be expected that the expenditure of the public money will as far as possible be avoided until there is an absolute necessity for it which at present does not appear to be imminent." "We may therefore congratulate our townspeople for the work they have thus accomplished," said the Gazette.

"Christmas, the time of social festivity and general rejoicing, will soon be upon us and as far as at present can be seen, we are likely to have an old-fashioned Christmas. Winter has early made his appearance and keenly caused his presence to be felt by giving us 12 days of downright good earnest frost, specially enjoyed by skaters and to a greater or less degree by all who prefer fine bracing weather—though intensely cold—to the rains and fogs which visit our vale so frequently." The Gazette considered that the voice most appealing was "the unfortunate persevering careful and deserving poor whose way seems to lie over the roughest and stoniest ground. I know we have such in our town, though probably in no great numbers. I know also we have those among their richer brethren whose annual custom it is to dispense charity among them always laying apart some portion of their store."

75 Years Ago

Mr. J. T. Richmond was to be informed in reply to his application that the Council had no power to license any underground bakehouse which was not in use as a bakehouse on the date of the passing of the Factory and Workshop Act, 17 August, 1901. Mr. J. W. Dixon asked if there was no way open by which Mr. Richmond could continue to use his underground bakehouse as others in the town were doing. Mr. J. A. Middlebrook pointed out that when Mr. Richmond's plans were submitted it was stated that the cellar was to be used as for a washhouse and not a bakehouse. Had they known that it was to be a bakehouse the plans would never have been passed. The Council had no power to license an underground bakehouse unless it had been in use as such prior to

Limiting subscriptions to 10s 6d a large sum of money was soon accumulated and this was used to purchase a solid silver salver and a solid silver rose bowl which were presented to Dr. Thomas Johnstone by grateful friends and patients after nearly 30 years of general practice in Ilkley. The gifts were to mark his retirement. He had come to Ilkley as assistant to the late Dr. McLeod and as medical officer to the Local Board and several institu-

tions. The event was held at the Middleton Hotel under the presidency of Mr. Henry Sutcliffe and there were 50 ladies and gentlemen present.

Professor Smithells of the Yorkshire College presented the prizes at the annual distribution at the Ilkley Grammar School in the School Hall in November 1903. The Rugby Union match played on the school field ended in a victory for the school by four tries to three. The Old Boys team which began with only nine players and finished the game with twelve was—C. Hampshire, K. Leslie, L. Hood, L. Holroyd, P. H. Critchley, G. H. Dean, A. E. Dean, Leslie K. Hood, J. T. Robinson, E. Horsman and W. Hargreaves.

50 Years Ago

There was some discussion at the December meeting of the Chamber of Trade on the subject of closing shops for Christmas. Mr. J. McCartney who presided thought the Chamber should give a lead to members and suggested closing for Christmas Day and Boxing Day. Mr. J. Slater suggested an extra day's closure but in view of the fact that there would be difficulties if certain shops dealing with foodstuffs remained unopened it was decided to adhere to the two days.

A fancy dress dance without "syncoption" no fox-trot, Charleston no tango and no Yale blues was provided by the Yorkshire Folk Dance association at Ilkley. The costumes, were well thought out, mostly of old country type, game-keepers, gypsies, milkmaids and farmers. The dances were traditional country or Morris type and well executed.

Attention to the fact that children of miners living in Yorkshire South Wales and Durham were in some cases near to starvation was drawn by the Save the Children Fund who organised a collection throughout the country. Miss Nussev of Upper Ewe Croft being the Ilkley branch chairman with Mrs. Lupton of Red Gables as treasurer.

25 Years Ago

A presentation of a wrist-let watch was made to Mr. William Annakin, of Sedbergh House, Sedbergh Park to show the appreciation of his services as maintenance officer to the Post Office on the occasion of his retirement. Earlier in the year he had been awarded the Corporation medal.

Ilkley area schools had taken on a festive air with Christmas trees "in abundance" and classrooms "gaily decorated". Parties, games, marionette shows and plays had been arranged for and by the children in schools both in and around the town.

The Rev. Thomas M. Morrow, the warden of the Wesley Deaconess college, Ilkley, was elected Chairman of the Ilkley branch of the United Nations Association. Mr. S. R. Ross was elected treasurer, and Mr. R. Smith Membership Secretary.

Lower Wharfedale, Junior Youth Council entertained 70 aged people to a variety programme in the National School, Burley. In charge of the programme was Mr. John Raynor, chairman of the Ilkley Youth Council and the compere was Stanley Lickley of Burley Methodist Youth Club.

ACROSS THE YEARS

RATE COLLECTOR'S SALARY SHOULD IMPROVE

100 Years Ago

It was recommended by the Finance Committee to the Local Board meeting that the salary of the Rate Collector, Mr. Crowther, be increased from £50 to £65 per annum. It was a responsible position, said Mr. G. Newbould, and at Otley and other places where the rateable value was not much more than at Ilkley a much larger salary was paid. Mr. M. Hainsworth, however, advocated a policy of strictest economy, and his views were supported by Mr. H. J. Cooke. After further discussion an amendment was accepted and the Gazette said the matter could be regarded as standing over for the present.

Caustic comments by the Ilkley Gazette appeared about some of the leading characters in the Ilkley School Board argument one hundred years ago. They included such men as F. W. Fison and others of varying views. Of Mr. John Gaunt the Gazette asked icily: "Did ever a human being make such egregious blundering and floundering among figures?" in a reference to some calculations put forward by Mr. Gaunt. "Need we remind this remarkable critic that every £50 received from the Government in the shape of grant will cost the rate and taxpayers at least £65, so that will not leave much profit", the Gazette went on. The paper then goes on to deal with Mr. Fison in a similar manner, criticising his arithmetic and finding fault with his calculations. "We appeal to the ratepayers of Ilkley as to whether a gentleman who is capable of making such mistakes as these is worthy of their support." As Mr. Fison was returned top of the poll with an overwhelming number of votes it does not seem that the Gazette had much influence in the town.

Attention was called by ratepayers to the state of the footpath in Little Lane and the Local Board gave instructions for the matter to be attended to. It was decided to issue certificates in future before new houses were occupied.

75 Years Ago

Mr. Howard Priestman spoke to Ilkley Photographic and Science Society in the Congregational School on "Norwegian Winter Scenes". He had spent some time in Norway and the views for the most part were snow scenes, illustrating sports and pastimes indulged in at this time of the year, and several were shown of "Fra", the ship in which Dr. Nansen made his voyage to the North Pole. The construction of the vessel was explained and especially its ice-resisting qualities. Mr. J. E. Wilson was chairman.

Dr. Thomas Johnstone, Ilkley Medical Officer of Health, spoke on "Mental Work" in the Congregational Lecture Hall to members of the Congregational Literary Society. The Rev. F. H. Blanchford presided.

The work of filling up the hollow between the south buttress of the Brook Street bridge

and Castle Hill was being proceeded with, it was reported, "and with the object of providing material for the purpose and likewise carrying the road forward, a portion of the hill in question is being removed."

Shortly after moving to Oswestry within a week or so of his resignation as Conservative Registration Agent, Mr. J. W. Whittaker died suddenly. He had been appointed to his Wharfedale position in 1887. Aged 55, he was a member of St. Margaret's Church and was a Freemason. The Rev. Irton Smith, Vicar of St. Margaret's, conducted the funeral service at St. Margaret's and the Ilkley Cemetery.

50 Years Ago

The 10th annual dinner of the old 11th Howitzer (Ilkley) Battery was held at the Lister's Arms Hotel, and was a great success. Well over 100 members attended. Major P. C. Petrie, DSO, MC, presided over the gathering. Col. C. F. Potter proposed the toasts to the Battery. Entertainment was provided by "The Three Tykes"—Messrs. Harry Rankin, Jack Allerton and Edgar Robinson, with songs by Mr. Eric Leary.

The possibility of closing Denton school and conveying the 12 scholars to Ben Rhydding Council school was discussed by the Ilkley Education Committee. The proposed new class room would provide sufficient accommodation there, and it was agreed that it would be better for the children to attend a larger school.

The hydros reported good bookings for the forthcoming festive season, and hundreds of people were expected as visitors to the town for the Christmas period. Full programmes of dances, concerts and carol services, as well as sport, had been provided for the guests, and there would be a play and dances at the King's Hall.

25 Years Ago

The opener of the new British Legion Buildings at Addingham, Mr. H. K. Stirk, described the event as a landmark of progress both for the Legion and for the village, and he paid tribute to the hard work of the members who had given their time and effort over the years.

The first prize in the shop window judging competition organised by the Ilkley Chamber of Trade was won by Mrs. M. Stevenson, Lister Street. The second prizewinner was Mrs. H. Holdsworth, Nile Road, and the third was Mrs. H. Oliver, Mornington Road. The best dressed window was judged to be W. Tomlinson and Sons Ltd.; 2 Timms and Dyson; 3 Kemps; 4 Café Imperial; 5 Beanlands of Brook Street; 6 Platt and Newall; 7 Cleggs; 8 Mrs. K. White.

An 11-year-old pupil of Moorfield School, Ilkley, Denise Yarker, of Manor Park, Burley, won a prize in a nation wide competition sponsored by Enid Blyton to compose a Christmas message for the Queen.

## ACROSS THE YEARS

CANDLE-LIGHT SKATING  
ON FROZEN RIVER

## 100 Years Ago

Hundreds of skaters took advantage of the frozen River Wharfe and there were several people watching notwithstanding the fact that it was intensely cold, said the *Ikley Gazette* 100 years ago. "This great festive day was ushered in as usual with the merry pealing of the bells which had a beautiful effect in the midnight stillness and shortly afterwards the efforts of the ringers were seconded by the *Ikley Brass Band*." There were morning and evening services at the Parish Church when collections were made on behalf of the poor. The tasteful style of the church decorations called forth much commendation. A service was also conducted at the Wesleyan Church in the morning and at St. Margaret's Church in the afternoon. The bells pealed out merrily in the afternoon and the day was otherwise enlivened by the strains of the *Ikley Band*. In the evening the river was illuminated with candles and coloured lights.

"Was there ever such a splendid bit of weather for Skaters?" asked the *Gazette* one hundred years ago. "Not sufficient was it that the Tarn should be crusted over and show itself capable of bearing the weight of a hundred people at a time, but the River Wharfe falls a victim to the long continued frost and presents such happy skating grounds that a poor old Tarn becomes a secondary consideration and the masses of our sporting populace desert it for the river. Anybody who saw not the view on the Wharfe on Saturday evening, missed a fine sight, when the ice was brilliantly illuminated with candles and coloured fires." The romantic pleasures of skating by candle light attracted crowds of ladies and gentlemen out from their homes, and to the onlooker it was a scene of brilliant activity and pleasure."

## 75 Years Ago

Despite bad trade generally and anything but a satisfactory season following upon a stretch of unprecedented weather our local tradesmen are putting the best face possible upon these depressing circumstances and are making a valiant attempt this Christmas to recoup themselves in some measure for the losses they have consequently had to put up with. Whether this could be done depended to a large extent on the public and the use they made of the cheaper trains to Leeds and Bradford before supporting their own local tradesmen.

The Rev. Dr. Maggs presided over a large gathering of the *Ikley Wesleyan Circuit* when a hearty vote of thanks was accorded the retiring stewards, Mr. J. J. Sanderson and Mr. W. H. Barber. It was agreed that Mr. Barber should become senior circuit steward and Mr. S. P. Myers was elected junior circuit steward. The connexional movement to carry out a simultaneous canvass in March next on behalf of the *Missionary Society's* funds was approved and the arrangements placed in the hands of the *Missionary Committee*. For the first time it was agreed to hold the next quarterly meeting at Ben Rhydding.

There was a large gathering at St. Margaret's Hall to meet the Rev. G. H. Prodham, Lord Bishop of North Queensland, who was at one time curate at St. Margaret's Church, *Ikley*.

A creditable performance of Spohr's oratorio, "The Last Judgement" was given by the choir of the *Ikley Parish Church*. Mr. Isaac Hirst was organist and conductor and with the exception of Master Charles J. Rhodes all soloists were members of *Ikley Parish Church* choir. He came from Leeds Parish Church. The

## 50 Years Ago

*Ikley* had a "green yuletide" and the winter sports which had marked the previous year's festivities were missing, but the festive season at *Ikley* had been a very happy one. Crowds thronged the hydros and hotels, and there were record bookings at these establishments. The Post Office had one record day when 1,711 parcels were delivered in addition to innumerable packets and letters.

The enquiry by the County Education Committee as to the feasibility of using the *Ikley Grammar School* as a "dual school" proved to be a very vexed question. The Governors appointed a sub-committee to go into the whole question and report to their next meeting. *Ikley* was badly in need of a girls' secondary school, and had been trying to achieve that object for ten years. Owing to delays and red tape the possibility of establishing a school at Burnside had fallen through, and land had been purchased in Cowpasture Road for the erection of a separate school for girls.

The Grammar school was purely a boys' school, and was carried on under a scheme started in June 1900, but its origins went back to 1600 and a legacy of £100 from Mr. George Marshall, and a boys' school was built in Skipton Road. It was felt that classes of boys and girls to be taught together would endanger the high standard of teaching at the school.

There was a fire at the *Cafe Imperial*, which rapidly spread amongst the Christmas decorations, but thanks to the efforts of the staff and the Fire Brigade no serious damage was reported.

## 25 Years Ago

Good bookings for Christmas and the New Year were reported at most of the *Ikley* hotels, who offered a full programme of entertainments including dancing, games and musical programmes.

Mr. Harry Corbett and his friend "Sooty" paid a visit to the children at the *Ikley Day Nursery*. *Ikley New Infants School* produced their own marionette show as part of their Christmas concert. The operators were.—John Holden, Carolyn night, Derrick Metcalfe and Barry Newsome.

Showing at the *Essoldo Cinema* over the holiday period was "The Greatest Show on Earth," a circus story starring Betty Hutton, Cornel Wilde and Dorothy Lamour. At the *Grove Cinema* the holiday programme consisted of Mel Ferrer and Leslie Caron in "Lili."

Dinner dances, open to non-residents were held at *Craiglands Hotel*, at approximately 25/- each night over the festive period, at the *Ikley Moor Hotel* for 15/- and a grand Christmas Eve Carnival Dance to be held by the *Ikley Rugby Union Football Club* in the King's Hall and Annex offered tickets at 5/- each.

# Selection of Pictures from 1978

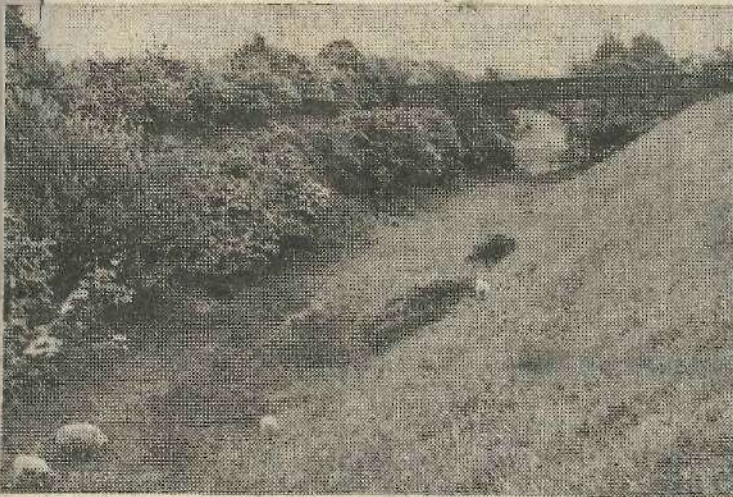
5 Jan 1979

## New Pelican Crossing at Burley



Continuous pressure from Burley-in-Wharfedale residents brought about the provision of a pelican crossing in Main Street, near Iron Row. After long delays which led to much criticism from residents the crossing was officially switched on at the end of April by County Councillor H. V. Hadcill of Ilkley, Chairman of West Yorkshire Metropolitan County Council. Picture by Richard Beckwith, Ilkley.

## Protests Over Tip Plan



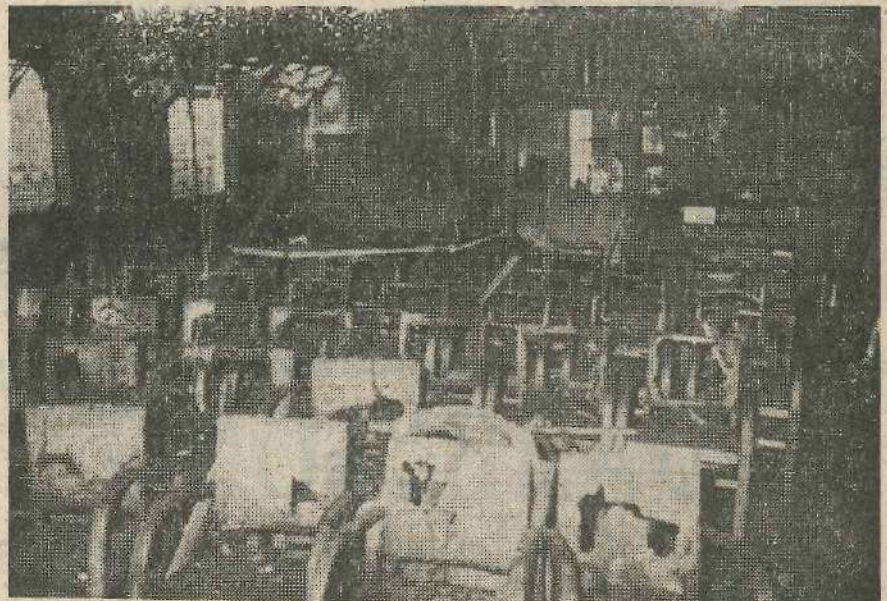
Proposals put forward by West Yorkshire County Council for the tipping of domestic, commercial and industrial waste in the old railway cutting near Stockinger Lane sparked off a storm of protest in the village of Addingham in June. Picture by Phillip Bambridge, Addingham.

## Repairs to Indoor Swimming Pool



The closure of Ilkley's indoor swimming pool for repairs to its tiled surface in June was criticised by Ilkley Parish Council, who felt the pool should have been closed during its less busy periods and not in the middle of the swimming season.

## Fire Destroys Kingdom Hall



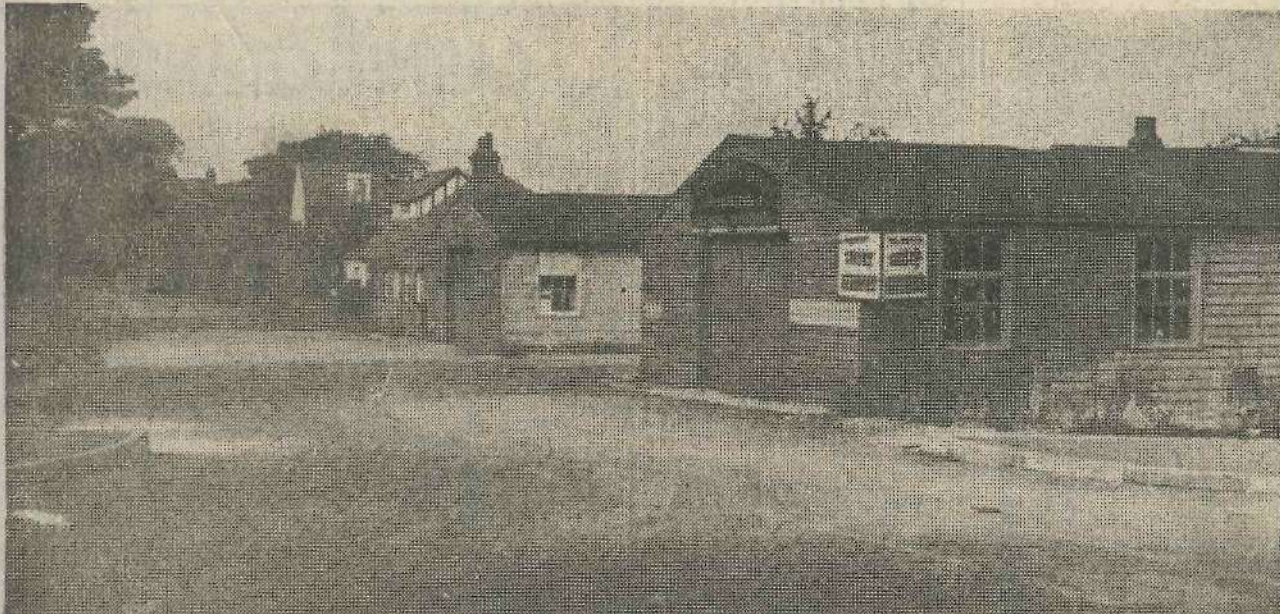
Ilkley's Jehovah's Witnesses Kingdom Hall in Golden Butts Road was gutted by a fire which caused damage estimated at £20,000 in July, and had to be demolished. The Ilkley congregation was later offered a site at the bottom of Wellington Road for a replacement meeting place. Picture by Richard Beckwith, Ilkley.

## Facelift for Ilkley Station



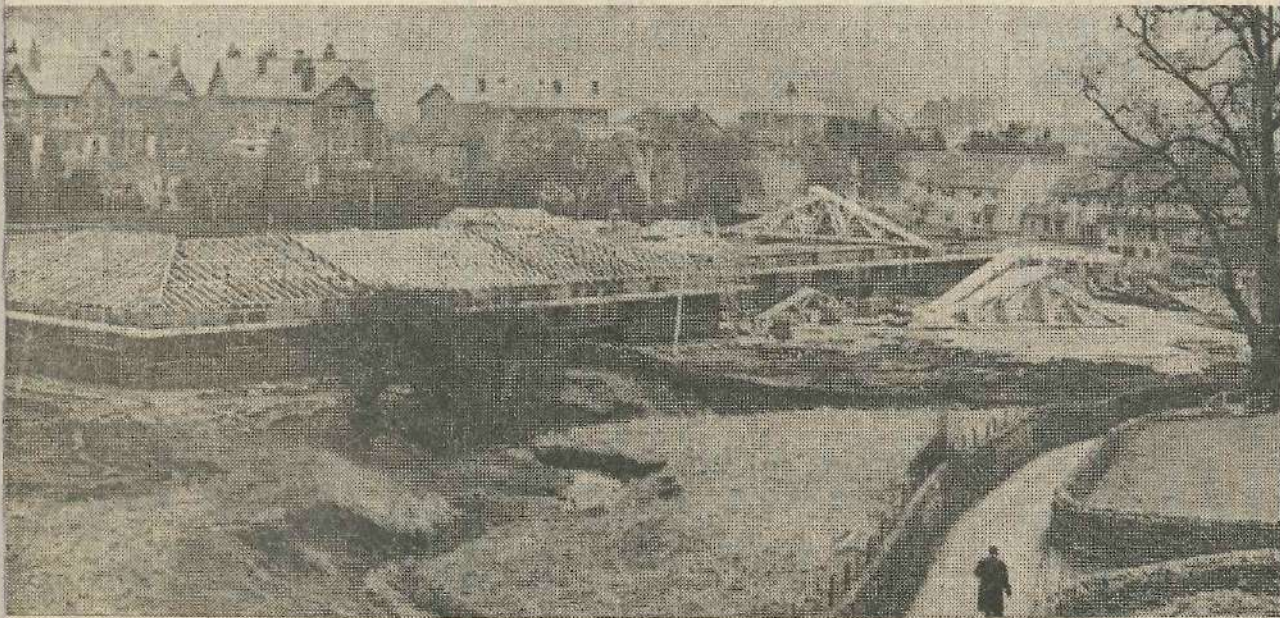
Work started in October on a major clean-up scheme at Ilkley Railway Station, beginning with sandblasting of the building, which dates back to the 1860's.

### Council Orders Action Over Derelict Ilkley Buildings



In January Bradford Metropolitan Council served orders requiring either the repair or demolition of the familiar wooden buildings in Castle Road, Ilkley, under the Public Health Acts. The buildings, formerly owned by Chambers motor body builders, were demolished in September. Picture by Richard Beckwith, Ilkley.

### New Middle School Taking Shape at Addingham



Work was well under way on construction of Addingham's new Middle School on land at the junction of Back Beck Lane and Bolton Road when the picture above was taken in April. The new £440,000 school will accommodate 360 children and was expected to open at the start of 1979. Picture by Phillip Bambridge, Addingham.

## Tree Planted to Commemorate Silver Jubilee



A new variety of maple tree was planted at the Memorial Gardens on The Grove Ilkley, as a durable memento of Royal Silver Jubilee Year, which ended in April. The tree was planted by District Councillor Mrs. Joan Lightband of Ilkley, Chairman of the Bradford North East Area Jubilee Committee. Pictured by Richard Beckwith, Ilkley.

## Pedestrian Jumps Clear in Addingham Crash



A pedestrian had to jump for his life and cars mounted the pavement to avoid a lorry which ran out of control down the hill into Addingham. Scenes like this pictured above led to renewed pressure for a by-pass to take heavy vehicles away from the narrow Main Street, and later in the year proposals for five alternative by-pass routes were put forward for consideration in a public participation exercise. Picture by Phillip Bambridge, Addingham.

## £20,000 Blaze Destroys Ilkley Workshops



An Ilkley building worker was charged with arson after a blaze destroyed workshops and stores at Vince Dobson (Builders) Ltd., Regent Road, Ilkley. Damage to the premises was estimated at over £20,000. Picture by Richard Beckwith, Ilkley.



### Start of New Era at Ilkley College



The planting of a whitebeam tree by the Lord Mayor of Bradford District outside Ilkley College marked the beginning of a new era at the college after its merger with Bingley College.

### Repairing Stepping Stones



The stepping stones across the River Wharfe at Ben Rhydding were repaired in June, after having been in a state of disrepair for over ten years since about a dozen were washed away in a severe storm. Picture by Richard Beckwith, Ilkley.



White Wells, nestling in its hollow on Ilkley Moor.

On the weekend when White Wells at Ilkley re-opens to the public, GEOFF MELLOR writes about its history and looks at some of the area's lesser-known spas.

The Telegraph  
 \$ August 14 Apr 79

# The forgotten spas

# of West Yorkshire

This summer, visitors to Ilkley will be able to view an old attraction in a new light, for the White Wells building, 1,300ft. above sea level, is to re-open "under new management."

The old 18th-century Bath House, one of the landmarks of Ilkley Moor, a few years ago was rapidly going to rack and ruin, but today it presents a new image entirely.

Thanks to the efforts and generosity of Mr. Eric Busby, former proprietor of the Goosewell Gallery at nearby Menston, the White Wells premises have been saved, restored and re-painted, and handed over for safe keeping to Bradford Metro's Museums and Art Galleries Committee.

When re-opened the old Bath House will be furnished as it was in its heyday, in the middle of the 19th century, complete with ferns and picture gallery. Eventually, it is intended to equip an ante-room to house a permanent exhibition on the development of the English Spa towns, of which Ilkley

was one of the first.

The medicinal properties of Ilkley water were first discovered by the Romans, who bathed in a spring high up on Rombalds Moor, but it was not until Squire Middleton erected the White Wells Bath House in 1793 that progress was made. Its existence paved the way for the "hydropathic boom" of last century, for it was after deriving curative benefit at the White Wells that a wealthy gentleman named Hamer Stansfield resolved to form a company to erect a "hydropathic establishment" in the area.

That was in 1843 and the site chosen was at Wheatley — later to be known as Ben Rhydding — and in charge of the Hydro was one Dr. Rischack, who had been brought from Silesia (Austria).

The enterprise was successful, for in 1850 it was reported that 500,000 gallons of moorland water was being piped annually to the Ben Rhydding Hydro. Its success led to other Hydros being built in Ilkley, perhaps the most notable being Wells House (designed by Cuthbert Brodrick, who was responsible for Leeds Town Hall). Then came Troutbeck, Craiglands, and other smaller establishments.

Ilkley led the way, and soon the great English Spa town building boom was going ahead.

In those early years of Victoria's reign, a widely experienced London doctor set out to survey the English Spa resorts, large and small, and record his findings in a tome titled "Spas of England" published in 1841.

The result was a critical comment upon what A. B. Granville, M.B., F.R.C.S., saw at the time, and makes interesting reading. Last year the writer of this article had a look at what remained of the mineral springs in this immediate area, not all of them brought to the attention of the worthy London physician, although probably in existence at the time.

Dr. Granville in his 1841 visit to White Wells, noted that the chief constituent of the waters was "Carbonate of Lime, together with Sodium," a mixture he described as "efficacious to the circulation." The medico went on to observe that the principal function of the Spa was for bathing, in particular the application of a "douche" to a diseased limb.

At the time of his visit, a young girl of about 11 years of age was being subjected to the cold "douche" under the supervision of "an old

primitive dame, who, besides acting as Bath Woman, escorts invalids to the White Wells on a climbing quadruped — an ass."

Dr. Hunter, at the time a noted physician in Ilkley, commenting on the action of the waters, wrote: "One of the coldest natural Baths to be met with" and goes on to add, "Its effect is highly invigorating, promoting both the secretions and the excretions of the body, and giving a keen edge to the appetite."

No wonder that in view of such strong and influential medical approval, Hamer Stansfield went ahead with his scheme to promote a Hydro at Ben Rhydding!

En route to Ilkley, Dr. Granville had been conducted to the site of the Craven Spa, or, as they were often referred to, the "Skipton Sulphur Springs." These, he found, were under the direct supervision of a Dr. Dodgson. The latter, after analysis, had pronounced their content to be: "Alkaline, and highly charged with sulphuretted hydrogen." Dr. Granville agreed, and was of the opinion that taken internally the waters would be beneficial in cases of skin disorder.

These springs were situated just off the old Roman road

from Ribchester to York, which passes through Skipton and Draughton to Ilkley, and were about half a mile from the centre of the town.

From Dr. Granville's description I expected there was (or had been) "a neat Pump Room and adjacent Baths" but at the time of my recent visit I encountered difficulties.

Mr. J. W. Dobson, assistant at the Skipton Museum, told me that the site of the Spa was in Short Bank Road, just beyond the railway bridge.

The Pump Room (now restored as a neat bungalow) had been originally a Toll Bar House, reputedly built in 1750, and the Old Baths had been swept away when the Greatwood housing estate had been built in the 1950's.

Further inquiries revealed that the Pump Room had been active as such until about 1914. The occupant at that time, of German descent and a noted breeder of Great Danes, had been interned when war broke out. A later occupant of the premises had run the Pump Room as a sweet shop, but had found the sale of mineral waters of a different sort much more profitable.

Bingley's "Iron Spaw" is not mentioned by Dr. Grenville, but I did find



Drinking the waters at White Wells in 1857.

mention of it in Speight's "History of Bingley" (1898) where the source of the water is given as "a Pinfold, off Lady Lane."

Last year I found a dried-up iron basin surrounded by stonework, in Spa Lane, off Park Road. At the back of this edifice was a severed pipe. On the stonework was carved the initials and date "T.G. 1871."

According to a nearby resident, this referred to Thomas Garnett, who at that time occupied Oakwood Hall. It seems the source of this spring was disconnected when the adjacent Oakwood housing estate was built in the 1960s, but somehow the water finds its way up from the ground itself, for the earth near the former fountain was stained a rich, red colour, a sure indication of iron content.

Calverley's Chalybeate Spring was rated high by Dr. Granville, for prior to his 1841 visit, a certain Dr. Prout had

examined the waters and pronounced their content: "Rich in Alum and Sulphate of Iron."

He believed that drinking them would afford speedy relief to sufferers of "Complaints of the stomach and weakness of the intestines," Dr. Granville agreed.

All I found there last year was a bricked-up, very large stone trough, surrounded by wire netting. This was in a field off Rodley Lane, not far from the Pudsey Showground, and, although visitors are now denied "Taking the Waters," some cows in a nearby field looked very fit indeed.

Eccleshill's Holy Well is ignored by Dr. Granville. Apparently it was ignored by others also, for no-one in the area had even heard of it, but old maps show it to have been on a site adjoining the former Eccleshill Railway Station.

One person said he recalled "something in some allotments which once were at the bottom of Summerville Drive." As this site is now covered with new houses, I was told that the Well, if it still existed, "would be in someone's back garden."

However, folks in the vicinity are convinced that something of the sort must have been there, for I was assured that in wet weather "water poured down the stone wall into Harrogate Road, especially since the bridge was knocked down and road widened." Another bright answer was: "The water was probably piped away to feed the Holy Brook Mills in Greengates."

Of course, these small Spas, or Spa-lets, interesting

as they are, do not compare with full-blown Spa towns like Harrogate, Scarborough, Bath, Cheltenham, Leamington and Buxton, but nowadays most of these have become conference centres or resorts of another kind.

Ilkley itself is not what it was. Ben Rhydding Hydro has gone and the Wells House is now a college. The smaller Hydros are now just ordinary hotels or have been adapted for living accommodation.

It seems 1948 and the National Health Service finally sealed the doom of the remaining English Spa towns. Drugs rather than douches became the order of the day. Even mighty Harrogate closed down all but its Turkish Baths in 1959 when the Leeds Regional Health Authority withdrew its financial support. Since 1976 Leamington alone of the once many English Spa centres has offered full treatment and facilities.

Recent attempts to bottle Buxton Water, said to be radioactive in content, have clashed with EEC regulations, and so, for the present at least, the scheme is "grounded."

As yet, there have been no attempts to bottle and sell White Wells Water, but now, thanks to Mr. Eric Busby and the Bradford Metro, visitors can at least visit the place, admire the view, and drink the water — for free.

It's open every Saturday and Sunday until the end of September, from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m., and on Bank Holiday afternoons.