



THE SANITARY & ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION, LTD.

GLOUCESTER.

Specialists in Modern Sanitation.

UPON the passing of the Public Health Act in 1875 the supreme importance of scientific sanitation as a health measure was impressed upon the public, and several Associations were organized in various parts of the country to undertake works of all kinds in connection with drainage, water supply, ventilation, and general sanitation. Of these societies the Sanitary and Economic Association, Ltd., whose offices are in the County Chambers, Station Road, Gloucester, was one of the first to be established in the provinces, having been organized in 1877. It should be added that this Association is to-day one of but a very few of its kind in the provinces. The territory covered by its operations include this entire section of the country, offices being also maintained in Hereford, Newport, and Bristol.



The character of the work undertaken by the Sanitary and Economic Association, Ltd., like that of the London Sanitary Protection Association, is not so fully understood and appreciated by the general public as its importance would demand, and it may be proper here to add a word of explanation. In the first place, it should be stated that its work is largely precautionary or preventive—that is, it seeks to prevent the ill effects of imperfect sanitation, rather than to effect a cure when once an epidemic illness or death has occurred. In this respect the Association performs an unique service, as the duty of Government and Municipal organizations is chiefly to stamp out disease after it has arisen, and to make sweeping reforms when the damage has been wrought. The Association, by periodic and systematic inspection, is often able to suggest a definite preventive worth ten reforms.

The Sanitary and Economic Association, Ltd., make a detailed periodic inspection of hotels, boarding houses, schools, public institutions, and private residences, giving sanitary certificates where the arrangements are satisfactory. In making the inspection the severest tests are applied, and any imperfection that may exist in the sanitation is at once discovered. During the past twenty-six years invaluable service has been rendered to the public in this way, the Association having been frequently employed by property owners and local authorities in the country, as well as by householders and others to whom health is a no less important consideration.

Although in the first instance the Association acts in an advisory capacity, suggesting the remedy for defective sanitation, when such exists, it also plans and actually carries out either small or large works in connection with drainage, ventilation, lighting and heating, disinfection, electric engineering, water supply, etc. All of this work is carried out under the supervision of a competent inspector, and many extensive and important systems of sanitation which have been planned and carried out by the Association have been the subject of the most flattering comment by reason of the thoroughness and the technical knowledge they reveal. While the Association gives equal attention to both large and small contracts, it is probably accurate to say that its greatest successes have been in connection with the more extensive works. In many instances the carrying out of a modern system of sanitation for a gentleman's estate involves the expenditure of thousands of pounds.

The installation of water supply systems, particularly for the smaller villages and rural districts, is another feature to which the Association has given a great deal of attention. The question of water supply is even more difficult for thinly-populated districts than for large cities, owing to the scattered area where the public revenues do not permit of an extensive expenditure. It is imperative in such cases that an adequate supply be secured at the lowest possible cost. The Association is ready at all times to submit plans and estimates, and to undertake the execution of contracts of this character, and judging from past results it may be safely said that no competent specialists in the Kingdom could extend better service.

The great efficiency of the Sanitary and Economic Association, Ltd., has in a large measure been due to the high professional standing of those to whom its management is entrusted. The resident engineer, Mr. J. Fletcher Trew, is a member of the Sanitary Institute and of the Society of Architects, and for over 20 years has been connected with the Association as consulting and supervising engineer. During that time he has planned and carried out a number of works which reveal a very thorough knowledge and fine technical skill. One of the more recent undertakings entrusted entirely to his care was the installation of the water works for Lydney Rural District Council, Lydney, Gloucestershire, involving an expenditure of about £12,000. The system, which is described in detail in an explanatory pamphlet, affords an excellent example of scientific engineering.

Mr. W. T. Wakeford, R.P.C., Certificate Sanitary Institute, London, and Medallist in Plumbing, is the Inspector and supervisor of works.

Other officers of the Association are the Honorary Sanitary Referee, Mr. Francis T. Bond, M.D., B.A., London, F.R.S.E., well known for his numerous inventions as well as for his qualifications as Medical Officer of Health; the consulting chemist is Mr. G. Embrey, F.C.S., County Analyst; and Mr. C. Scott, B.A., legal adviser. The general affairs of the Association are under the management of a board of directors.

The mere mention of the names given above are sufficient indication of the high character of the Association, and are a guarantee that its important work is carried out under the most favourable auspices attainable.



ALFRED THOMAS,

COLLEGE STREET, GLOUCESTER.

The Leading Taxidermist and Furrier in the County.

GLOUCESTER residents and visitors have now the privilege of inspecting some of the finest specimens of Taxidermy, done at the premises of Mr. Alfred Thomas, 9, College Street. The wonderful work done by this taxidermist quite entitles him to a paragraph in "Industrial Gloucestershire." The taxidermist's art—for it should be called an art rather than an industry—is so little understood by the general reader that a brief description of it, as exemplified by Mr. Thomas, will no doubt prove of interest. It should be added here that while there are in Gloucestershire a number who practice this art, the subject of these lines is distinguished from others by the marked excellence of his work, a description of which will therefore be a sufficient illustration of the progress made by taxidermy in the county.

Although he first engaged in business for himself less than two years ago, he has had a thorough practical experience of over twelve years. During that period he was in the employ of some of the leading taxidermists in England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales, purposely changing his employers to gain a thorough knowledge of the various methods, and to-day there is scarcely a single British bird or animal that he has not prepared and mounted.

He is particularly successful in giving to his mounted figures the attitude and expression they had in life. Piscatorial subjects are also cleverly treated, the colour of his fish being perfectly natural. His work in every respect, indeed, shows careful study and a very considerable knowledge of natural history. One of his favourite pieces, and one which requires a great deal of taste as well as technical skill, is the grouping of families of birds. In delineating the family history of the partridge, for instance, he first secures a real nest, with the leaves and grasses that grew around it, arranging them as in nature, and placing the parents and young in the interesting positions they so often assumed in life. These groups, with the painted background, tinted foliage, and beautifully-marked plumage, afford charming glimpses of a world but few of us could otherwise see. In his premises in College Street may be seen hundreds of mounted specimens, from the tiny humming bird or painted butterfly to the eagle and the bear, and all showing the same artistic treatment.

In one department, which forms a kind of stock room, may at all times be found a number of skins and models of carcasses just as they are received, and which, to the ordinary observer, would seem to be hopelessly ruined. In restoring the unsightly bodies to their original beauty the most careful and patient manipulation is required. In another room is a collection of grasses, ferns and foliage, which are painted to give them the fresh colour of spring or the glowing tints of autumn. In the workroom, which is a long and well-lighted front apartment, are the hand tools required in the various processes, and innumerable specimens in various stages of completion.

It is not so generally understood as it should be that taxidermy serves a variety of useful as well as ornamental purposes. Mr. Thomas prepares a great number of such useful articles as boas, horn hat racks, drinking cups and gongs in electro-plate and silver, skin rugs, etc., besides the larger mounted figures of bears, monkeys and other animals which serve in mansions and hotels as supports for gas or electric lights. It should be added that in the preparation of all of his figures he uses a germicide which is absolutely and permanently moth-proof.

Mr. Thomas is thoroughly engrossed in his work, and lovers of animal life who are privileged to meet him find him interesting and instructive. Visitors to Gloucester are invited to visit his display room, which they will find exceptionally attractive.

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