5 The Twentieth Century – Regnart's legacy

Lady Regnart

Cover illustration from the Annual Report, 1940

SIR HORATIO REGNART'S ESTATE.

LARGE BEQUEST TO CHARITIES.

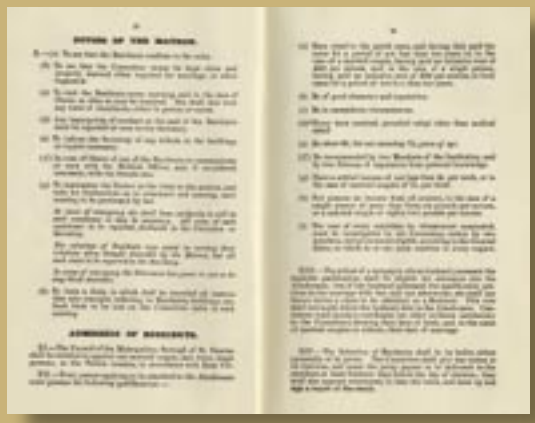
© Extract from The Times,

THE
LONDON ALMSHOUSES

SIX CENTURIES OF HOUSING
FOR THE AGED

THE HOUSING CENTRE
13, SUFFOLK STREET, PALL MALL, S.W.1

The St Pancras Almshouses are listed in the publication of 'The London Almshouses: six centuries of housing for the aged', 1944



Annual Report showing 'duties of matron', 1940

Commemorative plaque to Gertrude Heal

beside entrance steps

Mary Pellegrinetti
and Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, 2000

Lady Regnart
From 1894 to 1940 Lady Regnart devoted a substantial part of her life to the St Pancras Almshouses as a member of the Managing Committee. As well as making financial donations, Lady Regnart provided the residents with such useful items as sacks of coal, hot-water bottles, and blankets. She was also indefatigable in holding drawing room meetings at her house to publicise the needs of the Charity among her large circle of influential friends.

Sir Horatio's Will
A report of 1912 in *The Times* contains details of Sir Horatio's 'large reversion to charities' bequeathed in his Will, and includes a reference to the £500 paid to '... *the St Pancras Almshouses, Maitland Park, Haverstock-Hill, N.W.'*

Nurse-matron
Through the early twentieth century the St Pancras Almshouses continued to provide care as well as shelter to people who, without a welfare state, would have had nowhere else to turn.

Gertrude Heal
In the Minutes of the Managing Committee of 1955 it is reported that *'a donation of £100 had been received from J H Heal Esq to be used as a memorial to his wife who died in June last year...'*. A memorial plaque marking Gertrude Heal's life can be seen by the steps up to the Almshouses.

'Queen Mum'
In 1990 the Almshouses received a very distinguished visitor, Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother. A decade later, and now in her hundredth year, she returned to meet the assembled Trustees, staff and residents, and be presented with a bouquet of flowers by the Almshouses' oldest inhabitant, Mary Pellegrinetti, still a resident today.