

The Museum Collection

No.31

Souvenir of our new Orphanage



A pictorial souvenir of Grove House 1927

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Royal Antislavery Order of Buffaloes, Grand Lodge of England

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Introduction

For many years now, this document has been shown to only a few. Those that have had a view of it, and indeed handled it would have been advised to handle it with care owing to it's age and rarity.

This book is a pictorial story of Grove House as our new Orphanage, as opposed to that other book "The Opening of Grove House" which is portrayed in Museum Collection number 28.

Like many of the R.A.O.B. publications in the past, much of it has been destroyed or thrown away. The copy that is published in this series is a true copy of an original given to me by a very dear friend.

The original document was in a much larger size, I have reduced the pages to fit the size of the Museum Collections.

Bearing in mind the original book is some eighty seven years old you may well understand that some of the text has not reproduced too well in the original scan so I have re-keyed the majority of it, keeping as close to the original typeface and size as I can.

The story line tells of the purchase of Grove House in 1926, to serve as an orphanage because the other orphanage 'Aldridge' in Walsall had reached its capacity and could not cope with the growing number of children needing our services, plus the fact that the schools in Walsall could no longer accomodate the children we sent there. It tells of the cost and how the funds were raised to pay for it, schemes to pay for Grove House were being operated all over the country, the most successful by far being the sale of tickets purporting to be for a yard of ground for one shilling. Thirty thousand square yards had been "sold" plus 908 donors had paid one guinea and received the Grove House jewel.

Bro. Mervyn Payne in his book "The Origin and Development of the R.A.O.B." recalls Grove House Estate was bought to the notice of Grand Lodge in October 1925 and it received such a build up that the delegates were induced, with little opposition, to authorise negotiations with the owners. The people appointed for this purpose being the Grand Secretary, Bro. Tom Kirby, and the Secretary of Aldridge Bro. Leonard I. Aulton.

The opposition became more pointed and vocal at the January 1926 meeting when the negotiators admitted that they had construed "negotiate" to mean that they, the delegates, considered the premises necessary and their representatives could make an offer for it.

These are the actual words of the Grand Secretary Bro. Billy Rose, "the resolution of the last Grand Lodge instructed them to negotiate. He interpreted that as meaning that, being satisfied that that the property was a necessity, he, as their representative, had made a distinctive offer for it".

So it would appear that although Grand Lodge, reluctantly, gave their approval, the purchase of Grove House was a "done deal" before the floor of Grand Lodge had a real chance to approve or disapprove the purchase. It seems to ring a few bells and bring back memories when purchases by Grand Lodge were also "done deals" in the years after.

Read and enjoy.

Mick Walker

December 2013

Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes.

Grand Lodge of England.



Souvenir of Our New Orphanage

GROVE HOUSE

HARROGATE



THE HOUSE—Front View.

PRICE SIXPENCE.

GROVE HOUSE was built, at an enormous outlay, by the late Mr. Samson Fox, for his Family Residence, and was in his occupation up to the time of his decease, which was the only reason for the property coming into the market.

The unrivalled position of HARROGATE as a Health Resort, placed some 300 feet above sea level, makes Grove House with its 75 acres of land a particularly desirable Property. It is within ten minutes' walk of Harrogate Station.



A few of our patients at "Elsinore" February 1926, not forgetting "Nigger" and our esteemed Master and Matron (Bro. and Mrs. Page).



Taken in the snow at "Woodford"



A few of our patients at "Woodford" Weston-super-Mare with the Master and Matron (Bro. and Mrs. Pincock).

Our New Orphanage

GROVE HOUSE : : HARROGATE

JANUARY 30th, 1926, will ever live as the date of the most important event that has ever taken place in the history of the Order. For a long period it has been apparent that some steps would have to be taken to find accommodation for the orphans who were unable to secure admission at Aldridge. Much thought had been given to this subject and many schemes had been submitted, but the great drawback was that not only was the Orphanage full, but the schools were also full.

It is worthy of record how Grove House came before the notice of the Executive. We were in Harrogate upon Rules Revision business, a special invitation had been given by the local members to attend a Whist Drive, being held for a benevolent object. During the time we were there some of our members pointed out that they knew of a fine property that they thought would be very suitable for a Convalescent Home. Out of compliment to the brethren in Harrogate, we agreed to look over it, knowing at the same time that it would be far too large for any Convalescent Home. A bright idea, however, struck one of the Executive, that it would do fine for another Orphanage, with plenty of room for convalescent purposes if required. We knew the difficulties existing, and here at our hands was a heaven-sent proposition that would relieve us of all our troubles, and would ensure for all time that the little ones would never want a Home.

This all took place on the Wednesday before the October Meeting of the Grand Lodge in Leeds, 1925. It was of course impossible for the delegates to settle at such a short notice, but they appreciated what we were trying to do, and agreed to the Grand Secretary, the Secretary of the Orphanage (Bro. Leonard Aulton) and the Grand Primo (Bro. Thos. W. Kirby) being a Committee with power to enter into negotiations and report at the January Meeting in London.

Following upon this resolution they had an interview with the Trustee, Mr. Fox, in London. Unfortunately, he had arranged to journey to India and was unable to enter into the matter and offer thoroughly; he, however, left

his instructions with his Solicitors and we consulted our Solicitor, Mr. Walter Scott, of London, who tackled the job right away. This property is in the heart of Harrogate, and the value of the land was being added to day by day; as a matter of fact, when we interviewed Mr. Fox he offered us the house and grounds without the two acres of paddock for two thousand pounds less than taking in this piece of land. This means, of course, that he valued the two acres mentioned at £2,000. Some details of the whole Estate would we know be very interesting:

GROVE HOUSE occupies a notable position in a district world famous for its health giving properties. Although within only ten minutes' walk of Harrogate Railway Station, and consequently subject to the advance of the urban development incidental to a growing district, the residence has all the characteristic features of a country mansion of the highest class, and the grounds are so disposed as to preserve these amenities to the best advantage. The Royal Baths and Kursaal are within fifteen minutes walk. The Harrogate Golf Links and the Pannal Links are both within two miles. The Municipal Schools are within two minutes walk, and the Public Baths within three minutes walk. Secondary Schools are also within five minutes.

Views from the Observatory Tower extend to the White Horse, on Hambledon Hill, near to Thirsk.

Water is laid on from the Corporation supply. The Sanitary arrangements (town main drainage) are essentially up to date, and are believed to be in perfect order. An excellent system of Heating is installed, Radiators being fixed in the principal apartments, with separate boiler under yard. Electric light, from the Corporation's main, and Acetylene Gas plant on the premises.

The whole property has been thoroughly well maintained, and is in excellent order.

Epitome of Accommodation:

STAIRCASE HALL, 33 feet by 17 feet.	26 BED ROOMS.
DINING ROOM, 26 feet by 20 feet.	4 BATH ROOMS.
DRAWING ROOM, 30 feet by 20 feet.	BILLIARDS ROOM.
MORNING ROOM.	PICTURE GALLERY OR BALL ROOM.
BREAKFAST ROOM.	OUTER AND INNER HALLS.
LIBRARY.	PORTE COCHERE.
BUSINESS ROOM.	AMPLE OFFICES ON GROUND FLOOR.

A stone block of Stables and Garage, with fine turret clock and bells; Coachman's and Butler's Houses, etc.; a private Museum and Observatory, with movable dome; Farmery; delightful Grounds, with Entrance Lodge, Glasshouses, small Lake, Gardens and Lawns of 13 Acres, and Meadow Land, with convenient frontages, forming a total area of about 75 acres.

It will be seen by the above description what a splendid proposition we have secured. One of the finest Estates in England, to be used for our dear little orphan children, for our Convalescents, and for other purposes, such as Headquarters, if it is desired.



GRAND STAIRCASE HALL, about 33 feet by 17 feet, with broad oak staircase of easy gradient in two flights, and Gallery over, lighted by stained glass decorative panels in roof. Fine carved stone chimney piece supported by heavy caryatide figures.

I have already received heaps of letters from members who are desirous of taking part in the purchase; we thank those members and Lodges most earnestly, and from the ideas submitted I think the one sent by Bro. F. Wright, of London, is the best. We stated at G.L. that the cost per yard works out at about 10¾d. per square yard. Bro. Wright suggests, and followed his suggestion by forwarding a sovereign, that every member of the Order should purchase one or more square yards of the Estate at one shilling per yard, every brother will then feel that he has taken some part in our glorious work, and at least is responsible for one yard of the property. I shall endeavour to mark out the whole Estate in square yards showing the quantity purchased by each member or Lodge, with the name of the Donor or Donors. Mrs. Rivers, the wife of Bro. Rivers, C.P., of Taunton, has already worked a splendid eiderdown quilt as a prize, or to assist the Fund. We are suggesting numbering every yard of land subscribed for as above, Mrs. Rivers to be desired to select a certain number, the owner of this being the one to receive the very handsome quilt.

In addition to this we shall, of course, be pleased to receive £5 5s. Od., which will entitle the donor to have his name, or the name of the Lodge, inscribed upon one of the cots used for the children.

Subject to the permission of the Grand Council and Grand Lodge, we hope to be able to offer a Donor's Jewel for the member who purchases at least twenty one yards of land at one shilling per yard.

Brethren, if anybody had prognosticated less than 20 years ago that we should be in a position to purchase property at £16,000 they would have been looked upon as having taken leave of their senses, but we have done this, and more, as we must not forget that in addition to this property we have established our Orphanage at Aldridge, purchased THREE CONVALESCENT HOMES, besides furnishing them, and altogether we must all feel very proud that by a long pull and a strong pull, AND BECAUSE WE HAVE PULLED ALL TOGETHER, we have accomplished such wonderful performances. We must, of course, not overlook our War Annuity Fund. Although this has required no buildings, we must not forget that since about 1919 we have collected for this fund alone £70,000, and we have been able to grant annuities to 130 aged and deserving members.

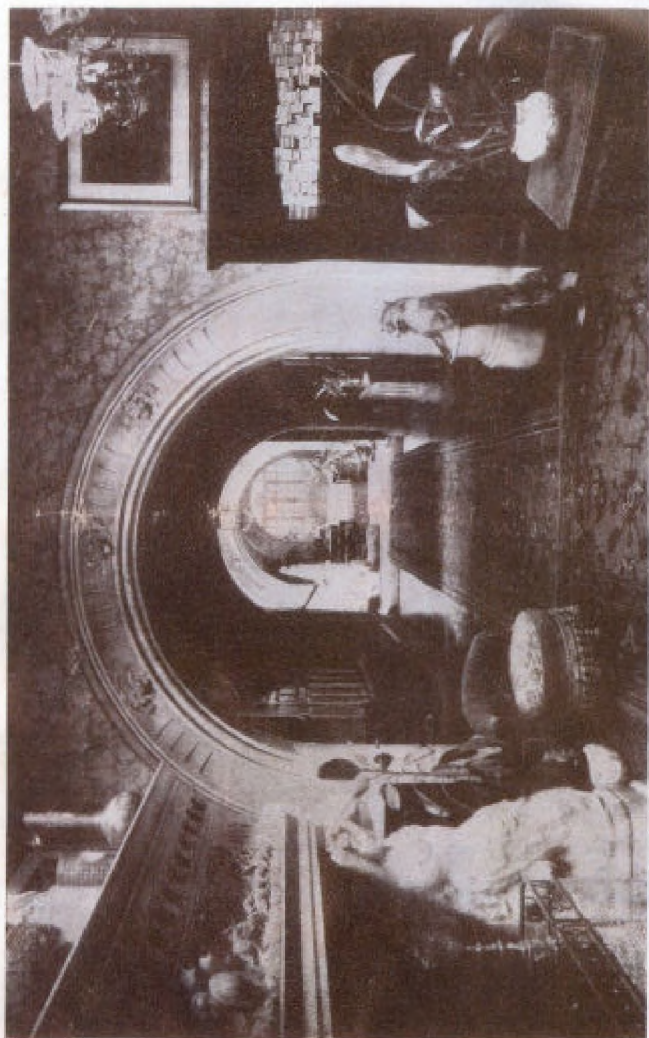
Perhaps it is too much to dare to hope that the new Orphanage will be paid for by our brethren, but it's possible if every member will realise his own little responsibility. If you cannot afford more, at least you can help us; purchase ONE YARD OF LAND at ONE SHILLING, and if every brother did this we should not be far short of the amount we are striving for.

Brethren, some of we older members have endeavoured to erect a monument for our Order as a record of our philanthropic work. We have laid a firm foundation: we have built the corner stones- THE ORPHANAGES, THE WAR ANNUITY, THE CONVALESCENT AND OUR WIDOW, ORPHAN and BENEVOLENT FUNDS. We shall not see the building completed, but we leave it as a sacred charge to those who will have to follow us to carry on the great work on behalf of the Order we all love so well.

W. H. ROSE, R.O.H.,
Grand Secretary.



DRAWING ROOM measures about 30 feet by 20 feet, into bay, and is divided by an opening supported by four classic fluted columns and pilasters and fitted with unusually fine carved wood and figured marble mantle pieces with brass and iron stoves and marble hearths.



THE LOUNGE (LOOKING EAST).



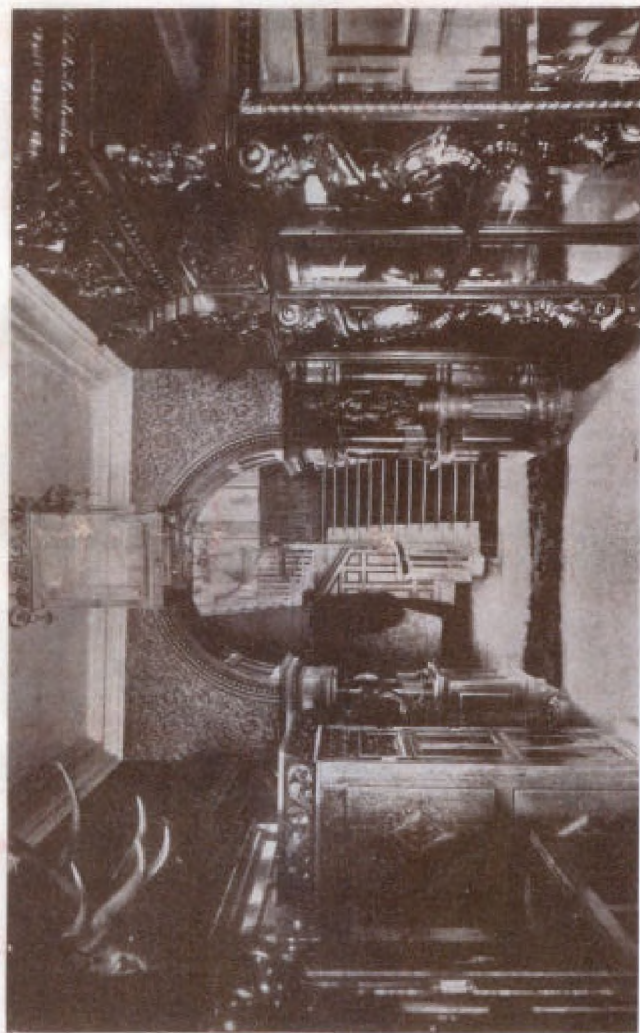
PICTURE GALLERY or BALL ROOM, about 42 feet by 30 feet with panelled oak dado, carved oak doors and three radiators.



LIBRARY, about 26 feet by 18 feet.



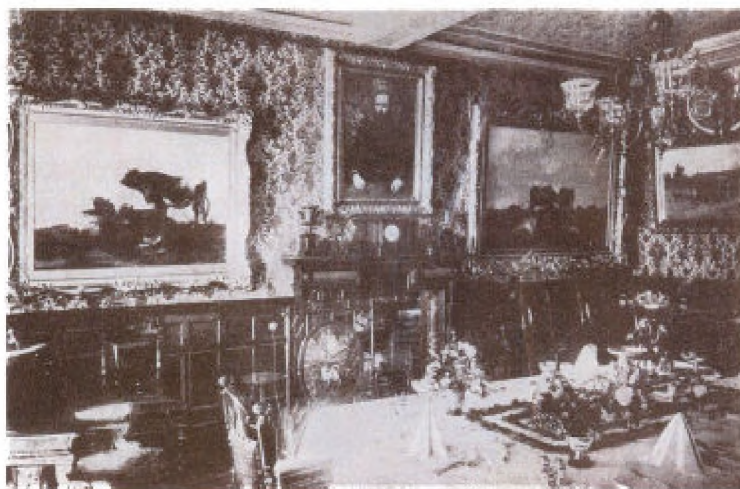
BILLIARD ROOM, about 30 feet by 20 feet, is lighted from the top and on two sides. It is fitted with an attractive Alcove and has egress to Garden, it also communicates direct with large Lavatory with W.C., two marble top hand basins, two urinals, etc.



SOUTH ENTRANCE.



WEST STAIRCASE.



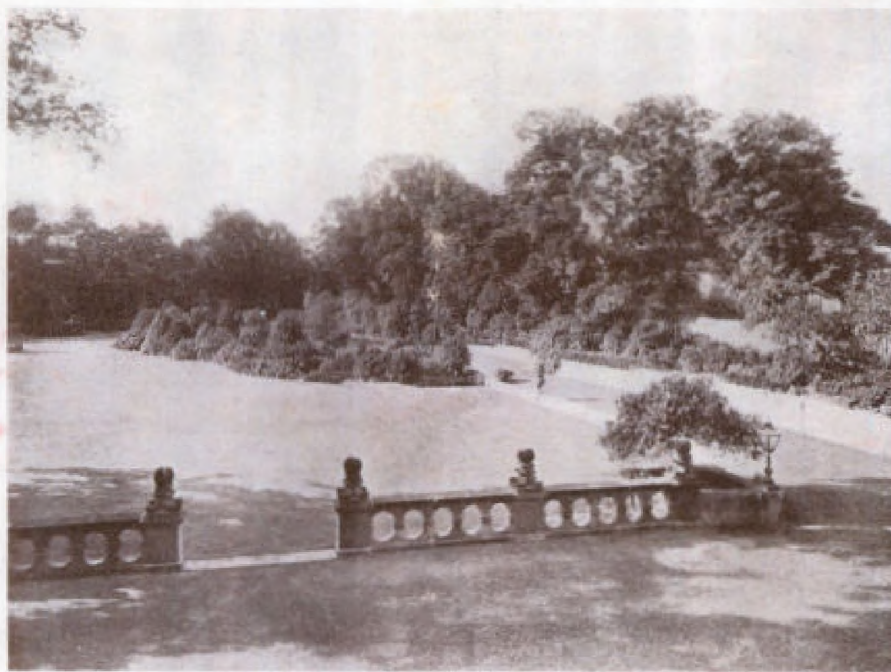
DINING ROOM, about 26 feet by 20 feet, with oak dado, carved oak and marble chimney-piece and tiled hearth.



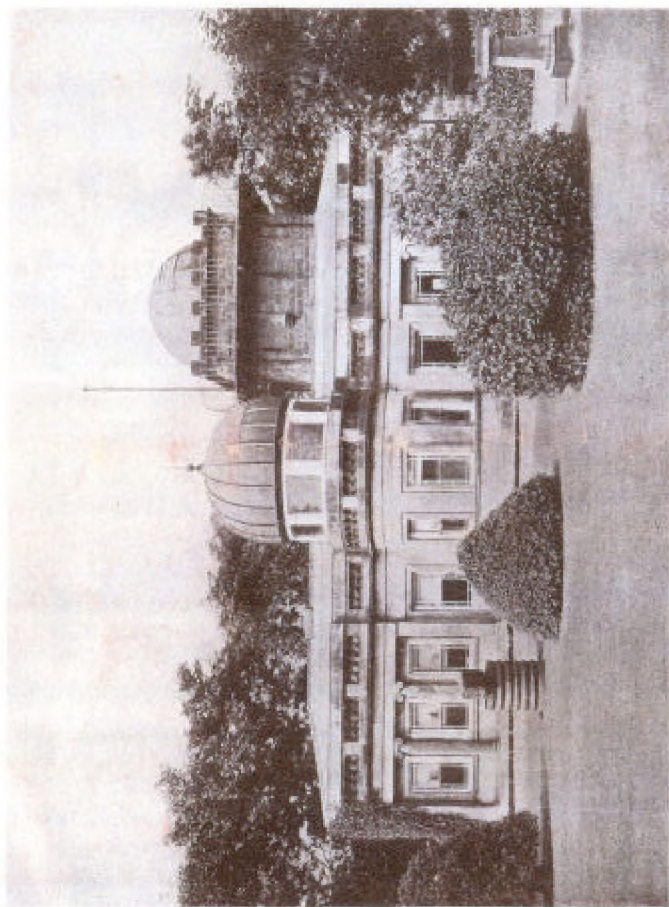
CORNER OF A BEDROOM.



ANOTHER VIEW OF THE GROUNDS.



The Delightful GARDENS AND GROUNDS surrounding the Mansions are laid out with excellent taste, and combine a good hard Carriage Drive and Courtyard, well drained Tennis and Croquet Lawns, a small Lake with ornamental bridge, Flower and Kitchen Gardens.



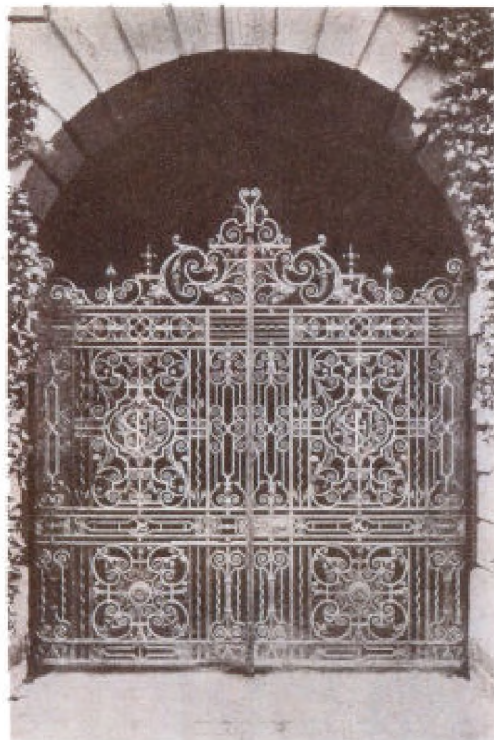
The **PRIVATE MUSEUM** or **SUMMER PAVILION** is a notable feature in the Grounds, the building being formed of the Classic Stone Facade of the old Harrogate Victoria Baths and re-erected by Mr. Fox. There is also a **STONE-BUILT OBSERVATORY**, fitted with moveable dome roof, and lofty wood balcony.



STONE-BUILT BLOCK OF STABLING with red tiled roof, fitted with costly Turret Clock and Set of Bells.



EAST TERRACE.



THIS PAIR OF MAGNIFICENT HAMMERED IRON GATES gives access to the Stables and also to a large Enclosed Yard.



CONVALESCENT HOME : "ROSE VALE."
Hove, Brighton.



OUR ALDRIDGE ORPHANAGE.



CONVALESCENT HOME : " WOODFORD."
 Weston-super-Mare.



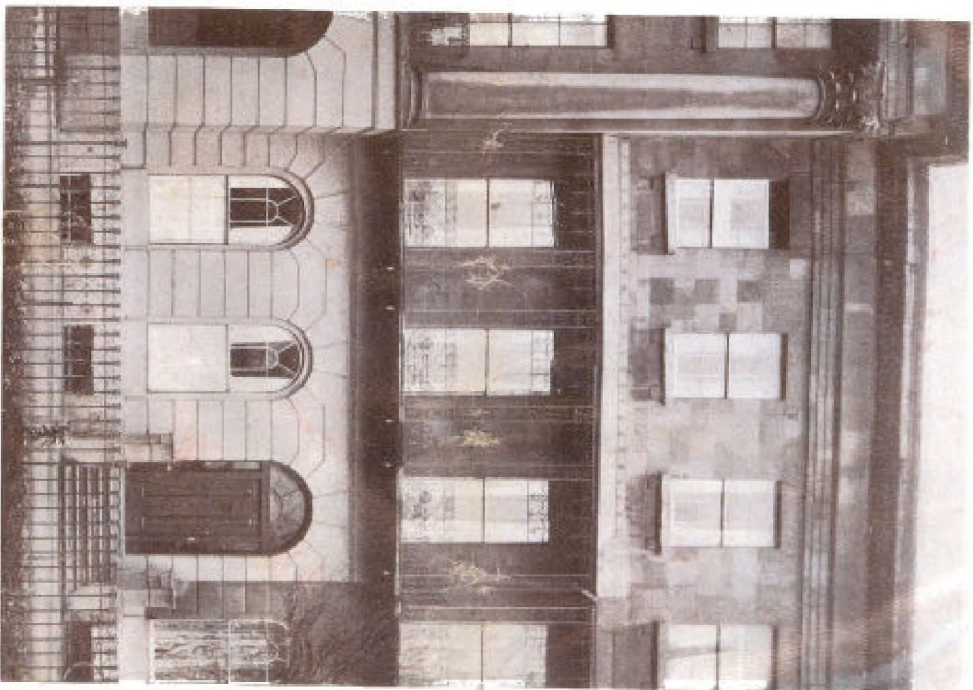
CONVALESCENT HOME : " ELSINORE."
 Scarborough.



"Elsinore," Scarborough.—Corner of Drawing Room.



"Woodford," Weston-super-Mare.—Corner of Drawing Room.



OUR HEADQUARTERS AT CHELTENHAM.

?

Have You
bought Your yard of Land at Grove House?

The Land is costing us roughly 1/- per square yard, and, if every Member purchased One Square Yard it would soon be paid for.

A Brother purchasing 21 square yards will be presented with a splendid "Donor's Jewel."

Now Brothers, send your Shillings along to me at Cheltenham and help the New Orphanage.

DR. J. HARWOOD,
PRINTER
DERBY STREET, DERRY

Also available in the Museum Collection series

- No.1 General Laws of the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes.
- No.2 Minutes and Proceedings of the Finance Committee August 1895.
- No.3 Culshaws Story of the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes.
- No.4 Claims and Fantasy Part One.
- No.5 Minutes of the first meeting of the Grand Primo Lodge of England.
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- No.7 Abridged History of Grove House.
- No.8 Ceremony and Chorus.
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- No.27 Changi & Unique Lodges.
- No.28 The Opening of Grove House Orphanage.
- No.29 Aldridge Souvenir.
- No.30 Grand Secretary's tour of India.
- No.31 Souvenir of our new Orphanage.
- No.32 Theory of the R.A.O.B.
- No.33 R101 October 2013

Copies of these and other publications by the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes Grand Lodge of England can be obtained from the Grand Secretary, Grove House, Skipton Road, Harrogate, North Yorkshire, HG1 4LA