

1832—Continued.

Stockport Infirmary, Wellington Road South, opened—June 18. The earliest Infirmary in Stockport was a cottage dispensary in Churchgate opened at his own cost by Dr. James Briscall, who subsequently removed his operations to a cottage in Grapes Steps in the Hillgate, which was continued until 1792, when it was replaced by a Public Dispensary on a larger scale, established in the Millgate. This was succeeded by the "Dispensary and House of Recovery," erected in 1797, in Carr Green, then an open and pleasant place in the midst of fields and gardens (so Heginbotham tells us). This served its purpose until the erection of the handsome building in Wellington Road South. The foundation stone of a new wing was laid on June 23, 1870, by Mr. Richard Sykes, J.P., and the wing was opened on October 16, 1871, by Mr. Henry Pearson, J.P., Mayor of Stockport. The Infirmary was further extended in 1885, and the Institution so enlarged was opened on October 21 in that year by Mr. (afterwards Sir) Joseph Leigh, J.P., Mayor. In commemoration of the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria (1897) a new North Wing was added, the foundation stone being laid on October 28, 1898, by Mr. Giles Atherton, J.P. (Mayor), the opening ceremony being performed by Lord Newton on November 28, 1900. Captain T. Harcastle Sykes was at this time Hon. Treasurer of the Institution. A large scheme of extensions as a memorial to King Edward VII. was inaugurated during the Mayoralty of Col. (now Sir) Alan Sykes, M.P., the then Hon. Treasurer, and now Chairman of the Board. A sum of over £10,000 was first raised, and this made possible the building of a nurses' home and new out-patients' department, the foundation stone of which was laid by Sir Alan Sykes on the 13 November, 1912, and they were opened by Mr. (now Sir) Thomas Rowbotham, J.P., Mayor, on February 2, 1918. The Nurses' Home has been recently extended by adding 12 extra bedrooms, as a memorial to the late Alderman Albert Johnson, J.P., an Ex-Mayor. Subsequent extensions, for which special funds were raised during the Mayoralty of Sir Thomas Rowbotham and that of Mr. Royle, include a much needed re-arrangement of the domestic offices. The Massage and Electrical Departments have also been extended, thanks to gifts from the British Red Cross Society and the Stockport Comforts Committee. The Infirmary, which by the way is in need of steady and continuous financial help, is now one of the finest equipped Institutions of its kind in the country.

1833.

Brass Foundry and Engineering Works established by Robert Harlow of Ashbourne, in the Park. This business, now at Wellington Road North, has been carried on ever since by the founder and his sons, the present head of the firm being Mr. Bernhard Harlow.

Portwood Mill opened. The Mill was for many years the property of the Howard family, taken over by the Portwood Spinning Co., Ltd., and transformed from Throstle spinning to mule spinning. The firm own a valuable waterway created by the trapping of the water of the river Tame at Portwood.

1834.

Practice of gibbeting legally abolished. Formerly persons after execution were gibbeted at Stockport Moor, near what is now known as Cherry Tree Lane. The last case of gibbeting in Stockport was in 1790.