NOTES AND QUERIES. [12 S. VIII. MAY 21, 1921.

which bore this inscription:—"Sacred to Milton, the Prince of Poets." Jeremy Bentham's garden touched the garden which once was Milton's, and the grounds of both are now covered by Queen Anne's Mansions, which, at the time they were built, were more individually known as 'Hankey's Folly.'

The almshouses of Cornelius Van Dun were in Petty France.

Cornelius Vandon was born at Breda in Brabant, Yeoman of the Guard and Usher to their Majesties Henry 8th, King Edward 6th, Queen Marie, and Queen Elizabeth. He did give 8 almshouses in Pettie France next to the end of James Street, for the use of 8 poor women of the Parish. He did also give 8 other Almshouses near St. Ermin's Hill by Tuttle side, for the use of 8 poor widows of this Parish.

Sir John Moore was also a householder; I should be grateful to be told at what date.

I long to step into James Street (which has been foolishly renamed Buckingham Gate), to which so many historic and literary links are attached.

Mentioning James Street reminds me that when I wrote (12 S. viii. 243, 333) about James Street, Westminster, I forgot to give the proof as to why it was James Street, and not St. James's Street. MB.

BOTTER WORTH equally forgot to give the proof, which is this:—James Street was named after our first English Stuart king, James the First, who, (whether liked or not by succeeding generations) was certainly no saint. The street, which ran from Arlington House on its interrupted way to the river, was named after the king from gratitude for what he had done to help the silk-weaving trade in Spitalfields and elsewhere. He bought up acres of the ground behind Arlington House (not wholly covered by the Royal gardens of to-day), which stands behind Buckingham Palace, and packed it with mulberry trees. One sees the anticipated sequence. Mulberry leaves: silkworms: silk: prosperous English weavers. So the roughly cobbled new road which ran from those grounds towards the river was naturally called James Street. M. E. W.

ITALIAN EXCHANGE IN EARLY SEVENTEENTH CENTURY.—I have a copy of the 'Medicina Joannis Ferneli,' Ambiani: Venice, 1555. From 1574 to 1620 at least its owner was Vittorio Bartolini of Urbino, who practised medicine in Urbino or Padua, possibly in both cities. On the fly-leaves he has recorded some payments made to him, especially during 1617-18, when he was attached to the household of 'Illus Signore Gou.' In whatever coin Bartolini was paid he gives the equivalent in lire, and perhaps the following points may be of use to those who are interested in the currency exchange of that period.

In Urbino, 1618, a zecchino (Venetian sequin)=12 lire, and a doppia di spagna (? Spanish doubloon)—21½ lire.

In Padua, 1620, a quarter of a Venetian ducat=2.2 lire. The other Italian coins mentioned are the grosso and the soldo.

RORY FLETCHER.

THE NEW THEATRE, HAMMERSMITH.—The vexed question of the site of this theatre exercised the mind of that eminent London antiquary and historian, the late Mr. E. Walford, F.S.A., who wrote to the Editor of 'N. & Q.,' and whose letter will be found in 8 S. x. 29.

Mr. Walford stated that he had several play-bills relating to this theatre, and on one was an appeal to the public for better patronage.

The idea that a theatre could have been erected in what was then (1785) a suburban village of about 5,000 inhabitants, the greater number of whom were employed in brickmaking, gardening, and farming, seems to me out of the question.

I am of opinion that a large room was rented in which the plays were acted; such a room stood until a few years since adjoining the Windsor Castle Tavern, King Street, and was used for such purposes.

Moreover, I have searched the Church Rate Book for that and succeeding years, and do not find a theatre mentioned, nor the name of Mr. Waldron, 17, Dorville's Row.

In 1793 a survey for rating purposes was made of all the properties in Hammersmith, but here again I fail to find a theatre mentioned, excepting the private theatre of the Margravine of Anspach.

The first public theatre to be erected in Hammersmith was that now known as the Lyric; some years afterwards, by the enterprise of the present owner and manager, Mr. J. Mulholland, the King's Theatre, Hammersmith Road, was erected.

It is gratifying to an old inhabitant to know that both these theatres are