In 1704 a subscription was started by Sir John Vanbrugh to build a theatre for this special purpose [for the Italian opera], and £3,000 was raised in shares of £100 from each of thirty persons, who, in addition to their interest in the building, were to have an admission ticket for life to all public entertainments given therein. The foundation-stone was inscribed with the words "Little Whig," in honour of Lady Sunderland, the most celebrated Whig toast and beauty of her day. The theatre was opened April 9th, 1705 with an Italian opera, "The Triumph of Love."

By a coincidence, just four hours after writing the above, I read on p. 179 of Mr. Hugh Walpole’s ‘Rogue Herries’ this:

But his chief love had been the Italian Opera. He had himself been present at the great event of its opening on the 9th of April, 1705, when Vanbrugh and Congreve had been there and Mrs. Braegirdle had spoken the Prologue. The opera on this occasion had been The Triumph of Love.

Edward Bensly.

Wheatley, in his ‘Round About Piccadilly,’ states that “the first stone was laid in 1703 by the celebrated toast the beautiful Lady Sunderland,” and that the theatre was opened on Easter Monday, Apr. 9, 1705, with a performance of Dryden’s ‘Indian Emperor.’

Ambrose Heal.

This was the Haymarket Opera House, known at various times as the Queen’s, King’s, and Her Majesty’s Theatre.

1. Built and established by Vanbrugh, on the site of the Phoentz stable-yard, opened Apr. 9, 1705, with a performance of Dryden’s ‘Indian Emperor,’ burned 17 June, 1789.
2. Stone laid 3 Apr., 1790, enlarged 1816-18, burned 6 Dec., 1867.
3. Completed May, 1869, but not opened until April, 1878, original façade retained until 1895, pulled down and Carlton Hotel erected on site, 1897-99.

J. Ardagh.

“SETTING HER CAP” : ORIGIN OF PHRASE WANTED (clxix. 391).—The explanation offered in Professor Ernest Weekley’s ‘Etymological Dictionary of Modern English’ is: To set one’s cap at is originally one of the many nautical metaphors which are no longer felt as such; cf. French mettre le cap sur, to turn the ship’s head towards. Here cap is Provençal for head, Latin caput.

Edward Bensly.

Woodroive (Woodruffe) of Woolley (clxix. 350).—The following is taken from the privately printed ‘Memorials of the Woodroffe Family,’ 1876:

Benjamin Woodroive of Aulerson in Pickering Lithe, married Bridgett, dau. of Sir Hugh Etton, Knt., had issue:

Edw. John, who married Grace, dau. of Mr. Britton, and a third son married a dau. of Mr. Poucher.

Edw. Woodroive married Lucy, dau. of Sir Rafe Bigod of Settrington, had issue James and four daughters: Margaret, married to Mr. Tho. Bromicham; Jane to Wm. Hilton, Esq.; Barbara to Mr. Tho. Middleton; and Agnes to Mr. John Hebbethwayte.

James Woodroive, Esq., married Ellenor, dau. of Sir Wm. Bruce; had issue Oliver, Edm., who married Diones, dau. of Mr. John Rotherford; Christopher married Elizabeth, dau. of Mr. Tho. Ashton, but both of them died without issue.


Richard Woodroive of Woolley, Esq., married Mabel, dau. of Hugh Pudsey of Barford, Esq., had issue: John, Richard, who married the dau. of John Dransfield, Esq., of West Bretton; Rafe, who married the dau. of John Crestacre of Barnbrough, Esq.

Robert married the dau. of Henry Everingham of Stainbrough, Esq., married Ursula, dau. of Sir Will. Braisford. And two daughters. John Woodroive of Woolley, Esq., was Receiver of Wakefield, and married Mary, dau. of Mr. Langfield, had issue, Christopher, Richard, not married, John, married Joyce, dau. of Sir John Burton, Thomas, who lived at Glossop and married the dau. of Sir Rafe Langfield, Knt., had issue John, from whom descended and came the family of the Woodroves in Derbyshire.

Christopher Woodroive of Woolley, Esq., married Alice, dau. of Peter Mirfield, Esq.; had issue John, Ann, married to Mr. John Wadsworth, Mary to Mr. Tho. Wheatley.

John Woodroive of Woolley, Esq., married Isabella, dau. of Laurence Hamerson, Esq., had issue Sir Richard.

Sir Richard Woodgrove of Woolley, Knt., married two wives: J. Jane, dau. of Sir Rich. Wortley of Wortley, Knt.; by her had issue Elizabeth, married first to Matthew Wentworth of West Bretton, Esq., and afterwards to James Langley to his second wife.


Geo. Woodrove, Esq., was Justice of the Peace 22 Eliz., married Alice, dau. of Richard Burdett of Denby, Esq., had issue Geo. and Francis, to his second wife Anne, dau. of Sir Rafe Headworth, widow of Edm. Fetherston, Esq., sans issue.

Geo. Woodrove, Esq., married Ursula, dau. of Mr. Clifton, sister of Sir Gervas Clifton, had issue Francis, Gervas, Tho., who married Eliz., dau. and heiress of Mr. Rich. Cookson of Wakefield, widow of Mr. Robert Hobson, but had no issue.

Francis Woodrove, Esq., married two wives: 1, Elizabeth, dau. of Sir Robert Nevile of Liversedge, but had no issue, to his second wife Margaret, dau. of Arthur Kay of Woodsome, Esq., had issue Francis Rich., Geo. The said Margaret survived her said husband and was re-married to Peter Pritchvi of Staley in com. Derby, Esq.

Francis Woodrove of Woolley, Esq., sold all his estate, viz., his house, Woolley Hall, and lands in Woolley, etc., and Notton, to Michael Wentworth, Esq., his lands in Langthwayne, near Doncaster, and Purston Jackling, near Pontefract and in Normanson and other places to other people.

R. J. Shilleto.

LAX FAMILY (clxix. 388).—According to Burke, 'Landed Gentry, Supplement' (vol. iii.), 230, one Anthony Lax was the eldest son of John Lax of Eryholme, Yorks (d. 1783) and Sarah, daughter of John Jefferson, who assumed for herself and issue the surname and arms of Maynard in 1812. Anthony Lax-Maynard, of Chesterfield, Derbyshire, and of Harlsey Hall, Yorks, died s.p. 1825. This may afford a clue, to the Anthony Lax who died 1811.

R. S. B.

BUZZ: "BUZZ BOTTLES" (clxix. 313, 355, 394).—According to my recollection, to "buzz the bottle" meant to finish it, to empty it entirely.

R. S. B.

FOLK-LORE: TRICKING ONE'S HEIRS (clxix. 369, 411).—Folk-tales on this theme take, in Mr. Stith Thompson's 'Motif-Index of Folk-Literature,' vol. iv., pp. 11-16, some of the numbers J10-J25. One of the most known examples, perhaps, is 'The Heir of Linne': The dying rich man tells his son: "If you lose your property, hang yourself, but do so by the stone which I point out." At last, when the son is about to hang himself, money falls out with the stone behind which the foreseeing father has hidden his treasure.