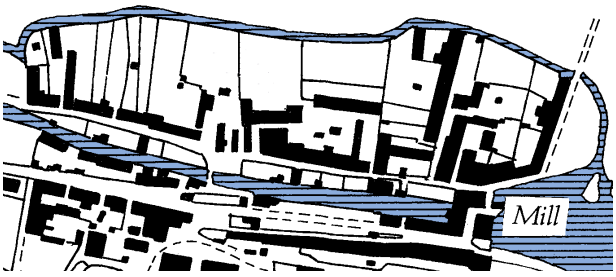
"Musings" by the "Mill Stream."



In 1927 Alfred Harman Edwards explained how his newsletters *Musings by the Mill Stream* had evolved from the occasional pamphlets he had been writing formerly.

From then on, his voice became inseparable from that of the Mill Stream, a tributary of the river Frome parted by hatches from the main river channel near the Hangman's Cottage, running through the heart of the Mill Street community.

Mill Street Mission, Dorchester.

(Interdenominational)
A.D. 1905.

"THE UTMOST FOR THE HIGHEST."

HON. TREAS.
H. F. WHITLEY,
WESTMINSTER BANK.

HON. SEC.
A. H. EDWARDS,
WENTWORTH,
DORCHESTER.

No. 18.
January, 1927.
Price, One Penny.

"Musings" by the "Mill Stream."

Because it is hoped to have a larger circulation of this little publication by its introduction to the neighbourhood of the Mission some particulars should perhaps be given about it.

* * * *

In pre-war days a "Messenger" known as the "M.S.M.M." was occasionally issued. This was revived in July, 1924, by a typed sheet signed by "Mill Stream." Since then 16 similar documents have been sent to workers and subscribers, headed as above. The "Mill Stream" is well known—geographically and otherwise!—to most of new readers. It is that little river running along what is usually termed "Mill Bank" and on through Mill Street and dividing it from Holloway Road, then through the Mill under the Swan Bridge, and so to the fields far away. How many years it has followed this course is not known. But it is a wise and kindly old Stream. It receives quite a quantity of "rubbish"—without grumbling, merely allowing it to sink, or carrying it along out of sight, and out of mind—until some manipulator of machinery raises certain hatches, and then the Stream "runs dry" and all its "secrets" are revealed. But its normal life is to steadily run its allotted course and silently listen and see a great deal. Recently however it has developed a power of expression. It found there were great changes taking place in Mill Street and at last appealed for an opportunity of making these and other things known. And so it modestly and mysteriously broadcasts through the present medium. Now it shall speak for itself.

* * * *

I want first of all to welcome all my new "listeners-in." Several folks having said they would like the opportunity of hearing me, and the 2nd Dorchester Boy Scouts kindly offering to act as distributors, I am naturally gratified at the prospect of developing the mutual acquaintance of many years.

* * * *

The metaphor enables him to deliver his message in a light manner. Thus he 'trickles' by snippets of news, or someone lingers by 'the bank' and reveals something, or a note is 'thrown' into him.

* * * * *

I have several bricks 'in my possession' (!) Why people should throw them at me, or into me, I cannot imagine, but I will gladly return them for the foregoing worthy purpose.

The foregoing worthy purpose is the building of the new mission for which he sold bricks at sixpence each.