

In connection with the sanitary condition of the village, we may consider here the water supply avail-

able in the village fifty years back, and until Glasgow water was brought in for domestic and other uses. The Kelvin was the principal source of supply for ordinary domestic uses, and many at that time used it for cooking purposes, when taken from places where there was a current; but there were also a considerable number of wells throughout the village. Some were private, others were considered public. About 1820 there were the following:—

Purdon's Well, sometimes also called the Back Well, the West-end Well, and Lady Brigend's Well. It was situated at the back of the property belonging to William Purdon (Laird o' Brigend), a short distance east from the foot of Anderson Street. The well, which was under cover of a staircase, was not very deep, and stoups and cans were slung and let down by a wooden cleek. The water was of excellent quality, and the well was cleaned out once a year by a few volunteers, for whom a small subscription was gathered to give them refreshments. On the summer evenings this well was a great resort for young men, who met there the young women who came to draw water. This well never dried up, and in winter we have seen it overflowing.

M'Gregor's Well was at the foot of the garden of the Merkland farm-house, situated at the head of the Vennel or Steps Road. It was a shallow well, and the water was dipped by hand. This was excellent water, but was private property.

M'Farlane's Well.—This was a large and deep well, situated behind the west end of the weaving factory. It was also a private well.

Meadowside Well stood at the east end of the house where the lessee of the dye-works lived, a little west of the present entrance to Messrs. Tod & M'Gregor's boat-building yard. It was a deep pump-well, and the water was of fine quality, and was led down by a pipe drain to the dye-works.

Duncan's Well was a small shallow well, standing in a nook on the side of the Goat, immediately north of the old houses above the Quakers' burying-ground. These houses were occupied at that time by Duncan Greenlees, the flesher of the village, from whom the well got its name. Its water was not good, and the well dried up in summer.

Craig's Well, often also called Back Well, was situated behind the house we have described as Allan Craig's, directly opposite the Knowe. This well was very deep, and covered with a large round flat stone, in centre of which was a hole through which vessels were let down by a rope to be filled. There was also a pump in connection with it, but it was seldom in repair. The water was not very good. Freedom was given to any one to draw water from it.

Cassells' Well was at the foot of the Knowe in Burnbank Grounds, close to the Brewster Burn. It was a deep well, furnished with a pump. The water in it was not good. A remnant of the pump still stands.

Thomson's Well was on the south end of the old bridge, at the back of the houses known as Inglis' property. It was called Thomson's Well because the front house facing the bridge was then occupied by John Thomson (father of the Thomsons, boatbuilders) as a grocery store and public-house. It was a deep well,

with a good pump on it. The water was of excellent quality, and the well public to all on that end of the bridge.

Old Toll Road Well was on the east side of the road, at the south-west corner of the Catholic School. It was a dipping well, and the water in it was not good. The opening of the quarry east of it dried it up.

Cooper's Well was situated on the side of the road at the north-west end of Well Street, at the corner of where the Gas-work wall now is. It was about three feet deep, and had two steps leading down to the water from the road. Two sides and back were walled up higher than the road, and covered with a stone slab. It was celebrated in the neighbourhood as a drinking water, being strongly chalybeate, and therefore could not be used for cooking purposes. Although shallow, it was never frozen during winter (so that it must have come from a considerable depth), and it was cold in summer. On a warm summer Sunday evening we have seen people, not only from all parts of the village, but from the gentle houses in the neighbourhood, carrying water from the Cooper's Well to drink. It is from this well the street has its name. The Gas-work dried up the well. There was a story current of some Glasgow people who were visiting at Mr. Sharp's of Horslethill. Mrs. Sharp had been baking some oatcakes with butter or dripping in them, which caused them to be very fine and short. The Glasgow gentlemen were anxious to know how they were baked, and were told that they were baked with the Cooper's Well water, some of which they had got a drink of. Shortly after some of the gentlemen sent out their

servants to Partick for a supply of the water, but the servants could not succeed in making the cakes so nice as those got from Mrs. Sharp. For long after this butter-cakes were known in and around Partick as Cooper's Well bread.

Colquhoun's Well was on the east side of the Byres Road, opposite the house so long occupied by John Colquhoun, but was formerly connected with the mansion-house of Broady Wylie. It was a deep well, and the water had to be drawn by a cleek, but the quality of the water, in our day, was not good. This was claimed as a private well.

Byres Well is situated in an angular corner behind Dowanvale House, the entrance to it being from Byres Road. This is a dipping well, and is not very deep. This well was common, and was to the east end of the village what Purdon's Well was to the west. The water was of good quality. We understand that the well and the passage to it from the Byres Road is public property; at all events, all the old feuars of Hillhead ground have a right to the well. It is one of the few public rights not yet seized upon.

Jenny Graham's Well.—Graham's Cottage stood on the north side of Dumbarton Road, west' of Church Street. To the west of the cottage was a green, at the end of which was the well. The east end of M'Arthur's Land is the cottage, with a story added to it. The other houses in the land stand on the green. The well would be where Mr. Rankine's shop now is. The water of this well was very good, but it was private. .

There was a well at Scotstoun Mills, which generally received its name from the tenant of the mill. It was



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WEST VIEW OF OLD HOUSE, CASTLE HILL, BYRES.



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EAST VIEW OF OLD HOUSES, CASTLE HILL, BYRES, 1872.



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SOUTH VIEW OF OLD HOUSES, ON CASTLE HILL, BYRES, AND WITCH PLANTAIN.

a pump-well, and, although within the gate, near neighbours were allowed to take water from it.

There was another well, called *Russell's Well*, situated at the corner of the garden belonging to Hillside House, on Partickhill, not properly includable in the village; but owing to the water running from it to a trough on the side of the public road, for the use of cattle, it may be spoken of as a public well. The publicans of the village, in old times, used no water but this for making down their spirits. This well is impressed on my mind from the fact that there was a large trout in it, and to get a sight of this trout was no ordinary treat.

There were other wells, such as at Downahill House, Muirpark House, Turnerfield, &c., but to these there was no access from the village. Other wells were also dug for properties built after 1820, until the introduction of the Glasgow water. The condition of these wells in 1820 we do not know. Some of them were certainly not very clean; but when examining the ditches and burns in 1850, we made a tour of the different wells then existing in use, and tested the quality of the water by estimating the quantity of solid and organic matter they contained per gallon, and many of them were in a condition which we considered very prejudicial to health, but their use was fast passing away. The following are the wells, some of them new since 1820:—

<i>Meadowside Well</i> , average solid matter per	
.....	25.5 grains.
le Street	32 "
.....	70 "

132 NOTES AND REMINISCENCES OF PARTICK.

<i>Purdon's Well,</i>	43	grains.
<i>Barr's Well,</i> Old Toll Road,	57.6	”
<i>Byres Well,</i>	32	”
<i>Colquhoun's Well,</i>	43	”
<i>M'Arthur's Well,</i> Dumbarton Road,	41	”
<i>M'Kain's Well,</i> Douglass Street,	64	”

The organic matter in each ranged from 3 to 8 grains per gallon. These figures serve to show what a necessity there was for getting the Glasgow water. While Kelvin water, as we have stated, was in 1820 in a condition suitable for ordinary uses, from samples taken in 1851 in a current, in the ordinary manner as stoups and cans would have been filled in 1820, the average contents of solid matter per gallon was 16 grains, with 4 grains of organic matter of a putrescent sort, giving out a foetid smell if allowed to stand in a vessel for a day, and which could not have been used with safety. About this same time we drew the attention of the public in the following letter to a well of some importance in the immediate neighbourhood:—

“**MINERAL WELL AT PARTICK.**—Having had occasion to analyse the water in several of the wells of this locality, my attention was consequently drawn to a spring on the north side of the Kelvin, a little above the bridge on the Dumbarton Road, upon the Gilmourhill grounds, which appears to me likely to possess qualities similar to some other celebrated mineral springs. At all events, it may not be altogether intrusive to call the attention of the community to the existence of such a spring, and should the medical profession think it worth a trial, for some poor invalids who cannot visit distant spas, it may prove of great service; the walk to it is pleasant, and notwithstanding that the Kelvin



J. M. Kirby 1888

OLD INN, BREWHOUSE AT BACK, HEAD OF HORSE BRAE.

NOTES AND REMINISCENCES OF PARTICK. 133

occasionally flows with something like milk, the spring is always clear, cold, and invigorating. Without going over the details of the analysis, the following are the contents of one gallon of water drawn last month, given in the state in which the matters evidently exist in solution :—

	Grains.
Silica,	1·00
Chloride of Sodium (common salt),	1·40
Sulphate of Soda,	7·37
Sulphate of Lime,	4·50
Sulphate of Magnesia,	7·35
Carbonate of Magnesia,	2·50
Bicarbonate of Iron,	4·54
Bicarbonate of Lime,	6·62
	35·28

The quantity of carbonate of iron with the salts of soda and magnesia in this water gives it a peculiar, though not a disagreeable taste, and also something of the character of a medicinal spring. The old inhabitants of the town of Partick will easily recognize in the taste and effects of the water—the old Cooper's Well."