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 especially 135-47.

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Copies of *The Dream of an Ideal City: Westbourne Park 1877-1977* by  
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It is fascinating to read the story of the Rate War of the early 20th century, of the passive resistance to the payment of the Church rate in which a number of Coventry Baptists as a result of refusal were sentenced to Prison for that refusal, and the way in which Queen's Road members supported those who were prepared to go to Prison rather than pay. Ministers were amongst those who refused to pay the Rates and were faced with a distraint of their goods to the value of those Rates. Whether Blomfield missed what he lost by such action on the part of the authorities, namely 'An Alphabetical Arrangement of the Words in the Hebrew Talmud translated into German' may perhaps be open to question, but the matter of principle was established!

The writing of history can never be and should never be an end in itself. Along with the important contribution that this book makes as a record of the remarkable story of Queen's Road, there is also a relevant reminder to everybody in the denomination and beyond of how a church in the midst of a community can, through faithful preaching, loyal laity, and spiritual courage, maintain faithfulness to the Gospel, a faithfulness which leads not only to the conversion of men and women, but also to the establishment of a fairer and juster society. Hopefully the denomination of today will take note of the lessons of yesterday.

W. M. S. WEST



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