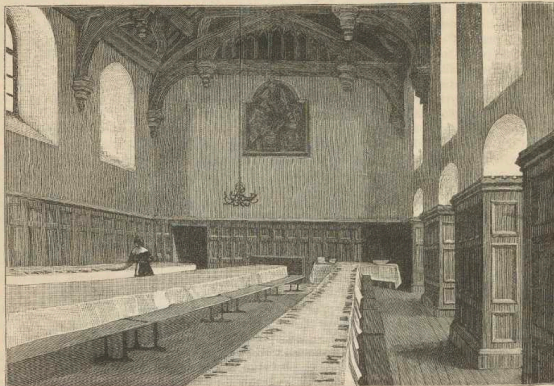


entrance door is a very curious lock, of the same age as the hall; it is wrought of iron, and covered with elaborate Gothic tracery, richly gilt; the key-hole is concealed by a shield of the royal arms, which moves in a groove, and slides down on touching a knob in the form of a monk's head."

The lower storey of the south wing contained the dining and drawing-rooms, and other large apartments, together with a long gallery that extended through its entire length. In the "Beauties of Eng-

the north are the old stables, farm buildings, and dovecot; the last named building is now utilised as a depôt for the stores of the institution.

"As we look towards the noble façade of the old mansion," writes the author of Unwin's "Guide," above quoted, "our gaze wanders to the northern wing, and we recall the story once current that this portion of the hall was haunted by beings who were not of this world. It used to be said that the north wing had never been



HALL OF THE FEMALE ORPHAN ASYLUM, BEDDINGTON. (See page 131.)

land and Wales" (1813) we read:—"In this hall is a portrait of a lady mistakenly shown as Queen Elizabeth; her arms, in a corner of the picture, are those borne by the family of Towmley. A small room adjoining to the hall retains the ancient panels with mantled carving; over the chimney is a small portrait of one of the Carews, surrounded by a pedigree. Another room has several portraits of the Hacket family; among these is a good portrait of Bishop Hacket, said to be by Sir Peter Lely. In a parlour at the north end of the hall are some other family portraits, the most remarkable of which is that of Sir Nicholas Carew, who was beheaded in the reign of Henry VIII., painted on board." Besides the old hall, much of the ancient garden wall has also been preserved. On

completed, owing to the pranks of some mischievous spirits or goblins, who pulled up the boards of the floor as often as they were nailed down. Often, in the long bygone time, have I, when crossing the park, turned my eyes with a curious interest towards the farther wing of the hall, where darkness and desolation seemed to confirm the ghostly tradition. The windows were bare of curtain and blind; no human being was ever seen at them; no light ever gleamed from them during the hours of darkness. The reputed condition of the deserted portion of the mansion was not attributed to any circumstance of crime and horror, memories of which cling to most of the old houses which the imaginations of the ignorant and superstitious people with the restless