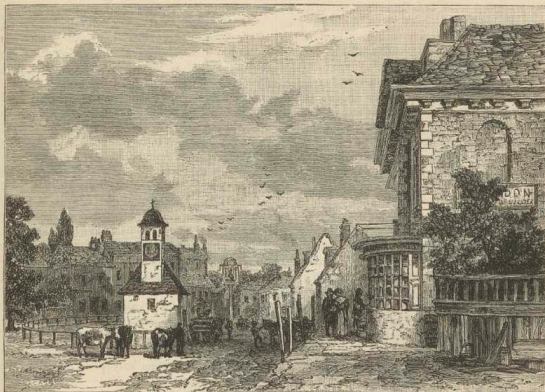


Many persons have written, with more or less detail, of the properties of these waters. Amongst others, Aubrey mentions them in his "Perambulation of Surrey." Dr. Grew published in 1695 a small Latin "Tractatus de Salis Cathartici usu in aquis E'beshamensibus;" and four years later Dr. B. Allen printed a "Natural History of the Chalybeate and Cathartic Waters of England." Besides these, John Brown, a chemist, published "Observations on the Epsom Salts" in the "Philosophical

which was produced at the Duke's Theatre, Lincoln's Inn, with a prologue by Sir C. Sedley.

In 1620 the lord of the manor built a shed to shelter visitors. Two generations passed away, during which time Epsom had grown from an obscure village into a fashionable watering-place, with its brilliant shops and its ball-room 70 feet long, the latter erected in 1690. There was also planted a long walk of elms on the London road, half the way to Ewell. These elms, however, were cut



OLD EPSOM. (From an old Print.)

Transactions," as did also Dr. Hales, in No. 495 of the same.

Dr. Hoffman, in his "Treatise on Mineral Waters," compares the Epsom salts with the waters of Sedlitz, in Bohemia.

In *Lloyd's Evening Post* for August, 1769, is to be seen a concise historical account of the old Epsom wells, from which we learn that before any house was erected there the common was called Flowerdale, on account of its mild and salubrious air.

The virtues of the springs of Tunbridge and Epsom were loudly proclaimed by Lord North, in his "Forest of Varieties," in 1645; and in 1673 Shadwell wrote a comedy entitled "Epsom Wells,"

down by Sir J. Mawbey early in the present century.

The lodgings not being large or numerous enough, hotels and boarding-houses were opened, reputed to be the largest in England. There was also a supply of sedan-chairs and of coaches, all numbered and placed under rule, like those at Bath.

It is satisfactory to note that Sabbatarian prejudices were at a discount at Epsom under the "Merry Monarch." Pepys writes in his Diary, July 26, 1663: "Lord's Day. Up and to the Wells, where a great store of citizens, which was the greatest part of the company, though there were some others of better quality. . . . Thence