

Stroud Subscription Rooms.

Next Sunday, October 24th, is the anniversary of the opening of Stroud Subscription Rooms in 1834. It was on Nov. 6th, 1832, that land was conveyed to trustees from what was then known as Kendrick's Orchard, and building was begun, the plans being presented by Basevi, a celebrated London architect. There are, of course, descendants of several of the original shareholders (who subscribed £50 each, and raised in all £3,050) who retain the shares of their predecessors, but these were transferred to the present Company in 1925, and the shares re-issued in units of £1. According to Paul Hawkins Fisher the Subscription Rooms were not properly fitted up until 1837, when 36 shareholders advanced £5 each, without interest, which enabled the managing committee to complete it. Very rarely, indeed, was a dividend declared to shareholders between 1832 and 1925, but since that year a small dividend, varying from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 per cent., has been declared on about nine occasions, on the issued capital of £8,181.

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