



Photo: A section of the Turk's Alley buildings in about 1885.

When slums gave way in the city

THE recent publication of a book on the making of modern Hereford has prompted one of our readers to write in to us about a family enterprise of long ago.

In the new book 'The Shaping of Modern Hereford', former city surveyor Graham Roberts refers to slum clearance in the early years of the 20th Century.

Now, Douglas Hughes, of Wye Street, tells me about how the notorious Turk's Alley in the St Owen's area was acquired by his

maternal grandfather Frank Daw (1859-1945) in that period.

Mr Daw was something of a pioneer in slum clearance, building four properties (Coronation Villas, 1911) and 10 similar properties (Daw's Road, 1912).

"For good measure, in 1913 he utilised a derelict former yard in Wye Street upon which were erected four villas, one of which I occupy today," Mr Hughes tells me.

Mr Daw was fond of saying he had been his own architect. The

bricklayers were his two sons, George and Bill, destined to die on the Western Front in July, 1917.

A noted pre-war member of the city council, John Nolan, had no hesitation in labelling Mr Daw as Hereford's 'slum clearance pioneer'.

When he died in May, 1945, The Hereford Times referred to him as 'Hereford's housing pioneer' and remarked that his activities in that direction would be regarded with gratitude by the city.