

was intimidated by his master to speak well of him, but admitted to the magistrate that the day before he had worked from 4 a.m. and had swept twenty-four flues. He wore little clothing and no cap badge to show apprenticeship. Mr Tooke, attending on behalf of the Society for Superseding the Employment of Climbing Boys, recommended that the boy's indenture be investigated as to its authenticity, and agreed to take the boy to the Holborn workhouse for care and nursing. The court doctor agreed to visit him there and report back to the magistrate.

In the *Morning Post* of Saturday 4 December 1824 is a letter, signed "X Y Z", setting out the sufferings of climbing boys and the defiance of the law by chimney-sweepers. After stating that few boys were obtained for the work without being *purchased, given away* by parish officers, or *stolen* (italics in the newspaper) the writer instanced eleven cases of extreme cruelty and death, including the two boys who died in the Lothbury baker's flue. The Coroner's



The death of two climbing boys in the flue of a chimney.
Frontispiece to *England's Climbing Boys* by Dr George Phillips.