



Four diagrams of boys in flues.

poverty. Another master-sweep, John Fisher, gave evidence of boys having the soles of their feet pricked to make them climb, or of having hay burnt under them.

A sign of the apprenticeship was the brass cap badge which the boy, after the Act of 1788, had to wear; it showed his master's name and address and was intended to be of some use to authority. One of these badges can be seen in the Kirkstall Abbey House Museum, Leeds.

There are numerous records setting out the practical details of "the trade and mystery of chimney sweeper". *The Climbing Boys' Advocate* of October 1856 gives the following description, explaining that this was the work before the Chimney-Sweepers' Act of 1840:

In sweeping chimneys, the boy finds his climbing cap indispensable. He draws it over his face below his chin. It protects his eyes, nose and mouth by preventing the entrance of the soot. The cap is made of coarse cloth, and is double or threefold.