

received a memorial from 114 Matrons and nurses in Denmark, asking her to acquaint herself with, and examine into, the professional organisations of English nurses, which she took much pains to do. We heartily congratulate Mrs. Norrie on her election to this important and influential position.

Book of the Week.

CHIPPINGE.*

Which of us knows anything at all about the Reform Bill of 1832? Which of us knows that King William IV. dissolved the Parliament that would not carry it, or of all that Lord Brougham did in his country's service? Or of the terrible Bristol riots?

In this particular moment, everything to do with a struggle for the suffrage has an edge of keen interest for us women, who are watching the trend of events just now with the most profound attention.

Certainly we have to do, to-day, with a more enlightened England than in those days stopped its ears and hardened its heart against any new method of electing the representatives of the nation: after reading the story of the carrying of the Reform Bill, the suffrage pioneers may take courage.

Mr. Weyman gives a fine picture of some of the chief figures of the time. He writes with very little bias—except in so far as he is tilting against manifest corruption. His portrait of Sir Robert Vermuyden is not an unsympathetic one, though severe. His portrait of the historic Sir Charles Wetherall, Tory and orator, who bitterly attacked all reform, yet was at heart one of the kindest and most loveable of men, is one that will not fade from the mind.

From first to last, the author handles his history in a masterly way. The hero is a young man whose acquaintance one might be very proud to make, yet like all Mr. Weyman's heroes, he gets most frequently into hot water, and sometimes presents anything but a heroic aspect. He is an ardent reformer, and at the same time, nephew and heir of Sir Robert Vermuyden, owner of the pocket borough of Chippinge and of its ten electors, body and soul. This is a tight place for any young man to be in. As a rule, it would not have greatly mattered whether or no he recorded his vote—the vote he held by favour of his uncle. But at this particular election, with reform in the air, Lord Lansdowne thinks of bringing forward a rival candidate. In these incredible circumstances the agent writes to the young man to come down from London to register his vote. He travels from town on top of a coach with a young and lovely girl who is going as a pupil teacher to a ladies' school in Bristol. There and then he falls in love with her, though she has no more romantic name than Mary Smith.

The progress of the romance is worked out with much skill, though Mary is not so fine a heroine as most of this author's women. She is more after the style of the little lady in Mr. Barrie's "Quality Street."

She is, in fact, the long-lost daughter of his own uncle, Sir Robert Vermuyden, and her appearance

*By Stanley Weyman. (Constable, Smith Elder).

robs him of a fortune. His uncle, by no means ungenerous, would have been glad enough to settle upon him a handsome sum to console him for his disappointment, could he have handed in his political submission. But this the high-spirited young man finds himself wholly unable to do. He openly defies his uncle, stands for Chippinge as a Reformer, and is duly elected a Member of Parliament.

Then come the Bristol riots. Sir Charles Wetherall hated throughout the country for his violent animosity to the Bill, was sent down to Bristol to hold the assizes. It was widely believed in the country, and Mr. Weyman seems to think that the belief is founded upon good evidence,—that Brougham knew that the presence of this man would inflame the populace, and sent him purposely that there might be serious riots, to give people an object lesson as to what they might expect should the Bill not pass.

It is at least history that Colonel Brereton refused to allow his soldiers to charge the mob, and that when the troops rode into the yard of the Bishop's Palace, and had the rioters in their power, they allowed them to escape.

The part Mr. Weyman assigns to his hero was actually taken by a young officer who was in Bristol at the time, and who, probably by his promptness and courage prevented the total destruction of the town. Stirring times, those! G. M. R.

Coming Events.

December 7th.—"At Home" at the Nurses' Club of the Nurses' Co-operation, 35, Langham Street, W. Show of the Nurses Needlework Guild.

December 7th.—Sale of Work at Nidry Lodge, Holland Street, Campden Hill, in aid of the New Hospital for Women, Euston Road, 2.30—6 p.m.

December 8th.—The Society of Women Journalists, Third Annual Dinner, Trocadero Restaurant, 7.15 p.m. League, if she is fortunate enough to belong to a school in connection with which such a league has

December 8th.—League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses. Winter Social Gathering in the Medical School Library, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, E.C. 4 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.

December 8th.—The International Council of Women: Mrs. Mackenzie Davidson At Home, 3.30. Lyceum Club: Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon, D.Sc., Hon. Secretary, will speak on "The Growth and Organisation of the Council," Mrs. George Cadbury in the Chair, 4 p.m., Tea and Coffee.

December 12th.—Examination in London under the authority of the Central Midwives' Board at the Examination Hall, Victoria Embankment, W.C.

December 14th.—Lecture on Public Health and Hygiene by Dr. Newman, D.P.H., to the League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses, at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, 5.45 p.m. The Course will be concluded after Christmas.

A Word for the Week.

A man is religious when he has the sense that he is not here purely for certain little purposes of his own, but as the instrument of a universal force.—George Bernard Shaw.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)