

considered sense to him and could never get a reasonable reply. By the time he was two years old the terrible conviction forced itself upon me that he was going to be an idiot." Later they made naughty faces at the bust crowned pillars of Socrates and Seneca because they were so ugly. Then sun-fed, breathless, steeped in the joy of a Roman morning, we had sobered down and were walking obediently beside our nurse along the wide central avenue when a wonderful vision broke on our sight. Coming straight towards us out of the swimming radiance of the noonday, with all Rome lying low behind him and St. Peter's, in the distance was a tall, benign-looking man in snowy white. . . . To me, the Roman born daughter of American parents, non-Catholics, severed in taste and circumstance from everything connected with the Vatican circle, Pius IX. was for many years the most important person on my horizon, a living power, a centre round which fancy and tradition wove rainbow after rainbow of thought.

. . . I thought his face the kindest and most beautiful I had ever seen, and as I knew later he was breathing a prayer that the alien lambskins might be brought into the One True Fold. Tenderly he laid his hand on my brother's head, blessed us in God's Holy Name, asked whose children we were, and passed smiling on his way."

Small wonder that the passionate devotion to the home at Villa Negroni, where were orange walks and cypress avenue, where the fountain had been playing for three hundred years, and the place was so quiet and remote that the children from their nursery window on moonlit nights would see a ring of little Campagna foxes drinking silently out of the low marble basin.

Small wonder that Mrs. Fraser tells us "that the one abiding home-sickness of my sadly misspent life has been for the Rome of my childhood, the saving grace for many a dark hour I have found in the memory of those full young years spent in the Eternal City."

Of her brother in later years, she says, "Thoroughness was his passion. He was so scrupulous that he would not write of any subject of which he had not personally and practically mastered the details."

A Roman Singer was the outcome of many years' familiarity with the musical life of Rome. For "Marzio's Crucifix" he became a silversmith. For "Marietta" he went into every process of Venetian glass work, and in these arts and many others he learned to excel.

Not the least interesting chapters are those where she describes her school days spent at Miss Sewell's, whose books for the young came to be so widely appreciated.

Miss Elizabeth—God bless her!—looked after our tiresome little characters, watched them with such wisdom and affection that she held our hearts in her hand. . . . Who would not yearn after Miss Jones, the dancing mistress, who would say with pathetic entreaty:

"Be willowly young ladies, for heaven's sake, be willowly!"

Those who appreciate "the things that are lovely" should obtain this book. H. H.

COMING EVENTS.

June 29th.—The King and Queen attend a Special Thanksgiving Service at St. Paul's Cathedral and afterwards are the Guests of the City of London at Luncheon at the Guildhall; their Majesties afterwards drive through North London, passing the offices of the Registered Nurses' Society, 431, Oxford Street, on the return journey. Nurses on the staff invited to be present. 3 p.m. Tea.

July 1st.—The League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital. General Meeting, 2.30 p.m., Clinical Lecture Theatre. Social Gathering, 4 p.m., Great Hall.

July 1st.—Annual Meeting of Governors, Lady Margaret Hospital, Bromley, Kent, 3 p.m. Garden Party, 4-7 p.m.

July 4th.—Annual Garden Party, Guy's Hospital. Distribution of prizes to students by Mr. Alfred Lyttelton, M.P.

July 5th.—Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland. Quarterly Meeting, Royal Hants County Hospital, Winchester, by the courtesy of the authorities, who will entertain the members to tea. 4 p.m.

July 5th.—H.R.H. Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyll, opens the Women's Imperial Health Association's Fête. Royal Botanic Gardens. 3 p.m.

July 5th.—H.R.H. Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyll, opens the Sir Henry Tyler Wing Extension of the London Homœopathic Hospital, Great Ormond Street, W.C. 4 p.m.

July 5th.—The Duchess of Albany lays the foundation stone of the new Central London Ophthalmic Hospital, Judd Street, W.C. 3 p.m.

July 5th.—The Duke of Connaught presents medals and certificates of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem in the Chapter Hall, St. John's Gate, Clerkenwell.

July 6th.—Lord Ilkeston opens the Women's Imperial Health Congress, Caxton Hall. 11 a.m.

July 6th.—Association for Promoting the Training and Supply of Midwives. Annual Gathering of Midwives at 23, Cromwell Road, S.W., by kind permission of Mrs. S. Bruce. The Badges to Midwives will be presented by H.R.H. Princess Christian of Schleswig-Holstein. 3 p.m.

July 10th.—Public Meeting of Trained Nurses. Mr. D. F. Pennant, Hon. Secretary and Member of Council, Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses, will speak on the National Insurance Bill, as it affects Nurses. Medical Society's Rooms, 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, W. Mrs. Bedford Fenwick in the chair. 8 p.m.

July 12th.—Garden Party, by invitation of Lady Truscott, to members of the Territorial Force Nursing Service, to meet the Lady Mayoress and the Executive Committee for the City and County of London. Royal Botanic Gardens, 4-8 p.m.

July 22nd.—National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland. Meeting of Executive Committee, 3 p.m. Meeting of Grand Council, 4 p.m. 431, Oxford Street, London, W.

WORD FOR THE WEEK.

Through labour to rest, through combat to victory.
Thomas à Kempis.

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