

only those of us can realise who have made a close study of child life, and who have nursed the children, not only through the short acute illnesses to which they may fall victims, but through months, and all too often years, of tedious chronic disease and ill health.

### LECTURE:

#### TWO FAMOUS DIARISTS OF THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY.

By MR. SELWYN IMAGE, SLADE PROFESSOR OF FINE ART AT OXFORD UNIVERSITY.

In his lecture Professor Selwyn Image carried us back into the company of distinguished men of letters of the time of Charles II, and we shared, too, in the joys and sorrows and entered one felt, into an almost intimate relationship with quaint old world folk with a curious realisation that, after all, their lives, if more placid and uneventful, differed, in the main, very little from our own.

Professor Image described John Evelyn as not only a distinguished man of letters but also a devout Churchman, an ardent Royalist, a courtier and a man with a comprehensive knowledge of the arts and sciences. Few figures in history are deserving of greater admiration; he was loyal to his difficult duties, and it is not a matter for surprise that he became one of the most trusted friends of King Charles.

Samuel Pepys was of humbler origin than Evelyn, and it was to his own efforts as well as to the generosity of a wealthy kinsman that he owed the fact that he became a man of wide culture and developed tastes for literature, science, music and the drama. With all his versatility he was yet an able politician and a business man. He rose to a high position in the Admiralty, and at one time was President of the Royal Society.

Professor Image then read many passages from the two diaries, commented upon each, and certainly whetted our appetites for a more intimate knowledge of those intensely human documents. He referred to the accusation that the diary of Samuel Pepys was mostly gossip and scandal, and said that he was in entire disagreement with this, contending that the facts in the diary were set down remorselessly by Pepys even when they were not to his own credit. The volumes gave a sound and illuminating picture of the events of his day and of his life.

In concluding, Professor Image said that the extracts which he had taken were not to be regarded as special jewels out of the treasure chest, he had but picked them out at random, the whole of this treasure chest (the diaries) could be acquired at very small cost, so that again and again one could go to it and take out and admire such jewels as he had placed before the audience that afternoon.

At the close of the lecture Dr. Kenneth Stewart, who occupied the Chair, said how very greatly

those present had enjoyed the lecture, and thanked Professor Image for his great kindness in lecturing before the Corporation, and for giving to its members such an intellectual treat as they had that afternoon enjoyed.

Professor Flinders Petrie will give his most interesting lecture on "Ten Thousand Years of Civilisation," illustrated by lantern slides, at the Rooms of the Medical Society of London, 11, Chandos Street, W., on February 13th, at 2.45 p.m. Members will no doubt eagerly avail themselves of the pleasure of being present.

### CORRESPONDENCE.

*Whilst welcoming communications from its Members the Corporation does not hold itself responsible for individual expressions of opinion.*

#### WAR SEAL FOUNDATION.

*To the Secretary, R.B.N.A.*

MADAM,—I think that perhaps our Members would like to hear that the first building, containing sixty flats, under the above Foundation is nearly ready for disabled soldiers and their families. It is a very imposing-looking entrance—beautiful iron gates, with a pergola on each side, which in time will be covered with roses and will form a nice shady walk. The flats are self-contained, with a sitting-room, kitchen, and two nice bedrooms. In the kitchen is a low bath, suited for an invalid, which closes up, and can be used as a table if desired. The invalid's bedroom has a large door, through which the bed can be drawn on to the verandah. There will be two trained people always in charge, and the treatment room is quite up to date. The invalid will always be able to have his own people with him, and will not feel that he is accepting charity, as the rent of six shillings and sixpence weekly is charged for the furnished flat.

It has struck me that perhaps some of our Members would like to subscribe for one of the invalid chairs. Many will be required, and several have already been presented; they cost six pounds each, and have brass plates on them with the names of the donors. It would be nice to give one from the Members of the R.B.N.A. I shall be very pleased to receive subscriptions towards this.

I am, &c.,

ALICE CATTELL.

1, Treborough House,  
Great Woodstock Street, W. 1.

[We congratulate Miss Cattell, as the War Seal Foundation is one of the numerous branches of war work in which she has so generously co-operated. We wish her every success, and hope that she may succeed in collecting a sufficient amount to enable her to present a chair from the Members of the R.B.N.A.]

(Signed) ISABEL MACDONALD,  
Secretary to the Corporation.

10, Orchard Street, London, W.1.

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