

A FORCEFUL PERSONALITY.

When a person is endowed with a very distinctive personality it is of interest to learn something of his heredity. Thus we find that Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, *née* Ethel Gordon Manson, had forceful progenitors, a Scottish father, and a Yorkshire mother, who, from a past generation had a dash of French blood in her veins through intermarriage with a daughter of the Fauconberg family.

Dr. Davidson Manson, of Spynie House, Morayshire, whose mother was a Rose, of a collateral branch of the Roses of Kilravoch, studied medicine in his youth in Edinburgh, but when qualified, did not practise. He was essentially a man of affairs, a great traveller and sportsman, full of public spirit, and took the initiative in raising the Inverness-shire Volunteers during the Crimean War, and in other progressive movements. Married twice, firstly to an American heiress, Miss Marion Scott, of Savannah, every penny of whose patrimony vanished in the War of Secession, and secondly to Mrs. Fenwick's mother—Harriet Ann Palmer, of the Pinner and Thurnscoe branch of the Palmer family, and descended from the eldest son of John Palmer of Marston, 1566, a scion of Palmer of Yorkshire. This branch of the Palmers intermarried with many interesting women notably early in the eighteenth century with the Lady Elizabeth Belasyse, daughter of the then Earl of Fauconberg, who quartered the Fleur de Lys of France on the Palmer Coat of Arms, and who transmitted to her descendants her apparently unquenchable *esprit*.

Next Mrs. Fenwick holds in high esteem the memory of her great, great, great grandmother, one Ann Palmer, daughter of Henry Armroyd, of Barnsley, the spirited woman who, in 1781, obtained a grant of her own armorial bearings—to be borne by female descendants—and which are to be seen in the Lozenge in the Illuminated Address. "Arms azure in a Fess Or, between three Doves proper two Escallops of the Field." We all know that a palmer was a pilgrim who carried a palm branch as a token of his pilgrimage, and the scallop shell was formerly worn by those who had visited the Holy Land. The scallop shell is therefore associated with the pilgrims of ancient times, and held in high esteem by Heralds. A Lozenge takes the place of a Shield to bear arms by ladies, with the exception of the Sovereign. This substitute for the heraldic Shield was introduced early in the fourteenth century.

From a collection of miniatures of five generations of Palmers, they were evidently a gallant race, well endowed with beauty and charm, usually men of gentle and urbane character, they married masterful women, and bred daughters of high spirited temperament.

From John Palmer of Marston's elder son, on the maternal side, was also descended the distinguished statesman who became Viscount Halifax, successively Chancellor of the Exchequer, Secretary of State for India and President of

the Indian Council, and Lord Privy Seal; and the Palmer Morewoods, of Ladbroke and Alfreton, Derbyshire.

From John Palmer's second son William, of Wanlip Hall, whose descendant intermarried with the Archdales of Wycombe, and later with the Roundells, descended Sir Roundell Palmer of Selborne, a very able lawyer and statesman, later Lord Chancellor of Great Britain, and created Earl of Selborne.

Charles Moffat Palmer, Mrs. Fenwick's grandfather, possessed brilliant forensic talents, which her only son, Christian Bedford Fenwick, has inherited.

"Logical brains in women were of no account in my youth, and the Bar was closed to us," Mrs. Fenwick has been heard to lament. Had it not been so, who knows if another descendant of John Palmer of Marston might not have worn the first petticoat to adorn the Woolsack! I think it is not at all improbable.

Mrs. Fenwick considers what she terms the "passion of domicile" one of the most instinctive emotions of humanity. I shall, therefore, next week, tell the readers of this Journal something of the environment of Spynie House, where she was born, and of Thoroton Hall, Nottinghamshire, where as stepdaughter of the late Mr. George Storer, M.P., she spent her youth.

MARGARET BREAY.

DR. ADDISON AND THE VOLUNTARY HOSPITALS.

Dr. Addison, Minister of Health, made a statement last week to a meeting of the Parliamentary Medical Committee, in explanation of the powers sought by the Ministry in the Miscellaneous Provisions Bill now before Parliament to enable local authorities to contribute to voluntary hospitals. He said that no Minister in his senses would set out to destroy the voluntary hospitals. But there were large populations with practically no provision, and it was an unfortunate fact that a large number of hospitals were in financial straits. He had done all in his power to help them. In any arrangement for meeting the needs of the population, the empty beds in Poor Law hospitals should be used. He wished to secure that, in every scheme, the medical profession were consulted in a proper way; but it was impossible to suppose that any local authority would find the money without having a determining voice in the way in which it was spent.

QUEEN TO HELP TRAINING SCHOOL FOR MIDWIVES.

The Queen has promised to be present at the *matinée*, organised by the Countess of Stamford, in aid of the British Hospital for Mothers and Babies and National Training School for Midwives, Woolwich, at the New Theatre, on November 12th.

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