

convents in Limerick. Carrickmacross is also a needle lace appliqué on to net, which is still made in Northern Ireland.

Samplers are one of the most interesting of old English handicrafts. They are mentioned in Shakespeare, and in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries most little girls had at least one sampler to their credit.

Originally they were worked on long strips of linen, embroidered in coloured silk, one horizontal band being added to another. Gradually it became the custom to add the name, or initials, and the date.

In the seventeenth century, canvas was substituted for the linen strip, and the sampler became more or less square, till it developed into a sort of picture with a border all round. The Evangelical revival in the latter half of the eighteenth century was responsible for the working of Scriptural verses or pious sentiments and verses of hymns. For those who would like to study these fascinating pieces of handwork in detail, there is a very complete collection of old samplers in the Kensington Museum.

There are also two very interesting books which may be read, Mrs. Christie's "Samplers and Stitches," and a beautifully illustrated book by L. Ashton, published by the Medici Society, Grafton Street, London, W.

### OUTSIDE THE GATES.

By a majority of 387 votes to 10 the second reading of the Equal Franchise Bill was carried in the House of Commons on the evening of Friday, March 30th. The Home Secretary, who introduced the Bill stated that under the Act of 1918 women had won a partial recognition of their citizenship, and an express avowal by Mr. Bonar Law that any surviving reservations could not be permanent. There was, therefore, the soundest authority for putting the two sexes upon complete electoral equality to-day. This meant that one adult would have one vote in one constituency, with a maximum of one more in any one other in which he or she had a business or university qualification. The total number of plural voters would, therefore, be increased to some 420,000, but that number was only 1.5 per cent. of the total electorate.

Within that electorate a male majority of 3,000,000 would be turned into a female majority of 2,000,000. That fact had caused an apprehension in 1918 which experience had completely falsified. It was no longer justifiable, therefore, to tolerate such contradictions of the spirit of the Sex Disqualification Removal Acts that a woman between 21 and 30 could be a juror in a capital case or a candidate for Parliament, but not a voter.

In connection with the Josephine Butler Centenary, a great Commemoration Meeting will be held at the Central Hall, Westminster, on April 25th, at 8 p.m., in honour of Josephine Butler, when the speakers will be: Miss Margaret Bondfield, M.P., J.P., Mrs. Bramwell Booth, J.P., Dame Rachel Crowdy, D.B.E., R.R.C., LL.D., Miss Alison Neilans, Sir Michael Sadler, K.C.S.I., C.B., and the Rev. Dr. Johann Ude, Professor of Philosophy, Graz University. The Rt. Hon. the Lord Balfour of Burleigh will be in the chair. Further particulars can be obtained from the Josephine Butler Centenary Committee, Orchard House, Great Smith Street, S.W.1. There will be a Special Commemoration Service at Westminster Abbey on April 24th, at 7.30 p.m.

Miss Madge Franckeiss, the 20-year-old clerk, of Norfolk Road, Cliftonville, Margate, who, with great courage, rescued her aunt and cousin on the occasion of the Thames floods on January 6th, has been awarded an inscribed gold watch by the Carnegie Hero Fund Trustees.

What a treat is a well written human book, and lately we have enjoyed two. We feel everyone should appreciate "The Bridge of San Luis Rey," by Thornton Wilder—a literary gem of the first water.

"Haworth Parsonage—A Picture of the Brontë Family," by Isabel Clarke, a very poignant work, brings before us the extraordinary stoicism of women a hundred years ago, when self-indulgence would apparently have been considered unmoral, and teaches us the value of self-respect, the power of mind over matter, how to stand upright, in the very presence of death.

What a tragic story it is!

Miss Clarke has a pointed mind and a magic power of sympathy. In her pages the Brontës live and breathe and have their being. We seem not only to picture them, but actually to touch and talk with them.

Emily Brontë the greatest genius of them all, left us for all time in her Swan Song "No Coward Soul is Mine"—a very glorious realisation of faith—and who having once read "The Old Stoic," can ever forget its last verse:

Yes, as my swift days near their goal  
'Tis all that I implore;  
In life and death a chainless soul,  
With courage to endure.

"Wuthering Heights," was always, in our opinion, a far greater work than "Jane Eyre," and is now recognised as immortal and imperishable.

Lionel Johnson called the Brontës "Children of Fire," and indeed they were a consuming force.

It is good news that the old Parsonage at Haworth has been gifted by Sir James Roberts to the Brontë Society, and it is hoped will be opened as a Museum towards the end of July.

It is proposed to restore the 18th-century windows and to restore to former condition Charlotte Brontë's bedroom. Many articles once in daily use in the parsonage will be returned, together with letters, manuscripts, and paintings.

Thus the parsonage will become more or less a national institution, and its maintenance will be a permanent charge on the Society.

### COMING EVENTS.

*April 3rd, 10th, 17th.*—The British College of Nurses. Continuation and conclusion of a course of 10 lectures on Elementary Psychology and its Application to Nursing, by Dr. T. R. Forsythe, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.M., 39, Portland Place, London, W. 7.30 p.m.

*April 18th.*—The British College of Nurses. Miss Pearl Morrison, and Miss M. E. Misner, R.R.C., will speak on "The Progress of Nursing in Canada." 39, Portland Place, London, W. 5 p.m.

*April 18th.*—Farewell Dinner to Miss Morrison and Miss Misner. 7.30 p.m.

*April 20th.*—General Nursing Council for England and Wales. Monthly Meeting, 20, Portland Place, London, W. 2.30 p.m.

*April 21st.*—Royal British Nurses' Association. Lecture by Miss Isabel Macdonald, F.B.C.N., on Queen Margaret of Scotland. 194, Queen's Gate, S.W. 3 p.m.

*April 25th.*—The British College of Nurses. Obligation Day. 39, Portland Place, London, W. 2.30-5 p.m.

*April 26th.*—The British College of Nurses. The first of a course of six lectures by Miss Gertrude Dearnley, M.D., on Gynaecology. 39, Portland Place, London. 6.30 p.m.

*April 28th.*—The British College of Nurses. Council Meeting. 39, Portland Place, London, W. 2.30-5 p.m.

*May 4th.*—British College of Nurses. Conference on "Conditions of Private Nursing." Mrs. Bedford-Fenwick, President, in the Chair. 39, Portland Place, London, W. 5 p.m.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)