

to Sir John Hotoft, whose second daughter married Sir Richard Lytton of the Peak, and it was sold by her son-in-law to Sir Robert Lytton in 1492. Ultimately the property passed to Elizabeth Barbara Lytton, who married General Bulwer, of Heyden Hall. The famous Edward Bulwer Lytton was their son, and he became the first Earl of Lytton.

At Knebworth we saw many treasures:—A fine old musical clock of the time of William and Mary, suits of armour of Elizabeth's time, breast plates and back armour of Cromwell, and a saddle and halter presented by the Emir of Afghanistan to the late Lord Lytton when he was Viceroy of India. In the library are the first editions of all the works of Bulwer Lytton. In a glass case is a cast of the hand that wrote the novels, alongside some manuscripts of them and letters from Charles Dickens. In another case lies a ring given to one of his friends by Charles I on which are inscribed the words "I die by tyranny," a crucifix of Mary Queen of Scots, an inkstand used at the signing of the Treaty between Charles I and the Commissioners of the Long Parliament, and other treasures. Above the mantel-piece is a fine picture of Bulwer Lytton, and on the former the crystal into which he gazed in search of visions. We saw also his inkstand, blotting book, pipe and cigar case. In this room is beautiful William and Mary furniture, a charming Regency sofa, a Queen Anne walnut armchair, velvet needlework of the 16th century on two other chairs and, what interested us most, the two skulls which inspired Lytton to write "The Last Days of Pompeii." In the drawing-room were some fine family portraits, tortoise-shell and ivory cabinets of the time of Charles II, four quaint little children's chairs of the 17th and 18th centuries and other delightful old furniture of different periods. The banqueting hall is of great beauty. The roof and screen are dated 1610-1620, and the rest of the room was designed, if not built, by Inigo Jones. The present Earl has had the room "un-Gothicized" and the beautiful carving stripped of heavy gilt and paint. It is lovely. The furniture is of the Stuart period. We liked the charming picture of the little Duke of Gloucester, son of Charles I, and near it is a fine one of the present Lord Lytton by his brother, the Hon. Neville Lytton. Through the kindness of the Countess of Lytton we were given a last exquisite memory of the day's adventures when she opened the door of the picture gallery which she uses as a drawing-room; it was a lovely scene indeed—entrancing works of art, delicately embroidered hangings and quantities of flowers. Somehow it helped to emphasise the kind of atmosphere which has grown up in our minds of Knebworth House. Several people remarked on the wonderful impression left by these two great and historic places. Hatfield seemed to resound with political history, the personalities who had passed through its galleries have left something more real there than anything we saw with our physical eyes. At Knebworth the impressions were equally strong, but there it was different; politics, though they have a place, have been submerged by something exquisite and artistic in its quality and, reverting to the subject of a recent lecture on the temperaments, we discussed how great must be the influence on childhood and then eventually on heredity of living in such surroundings where something, stronger than mere language, makes even the most obtuse to see visions and dream dreams. Both Hatfield House and Knebworth have now, by their generous and public-spirited owners, been thrown open to the public on certain days, and we strongly advise those who were disappointed in not being able to join in our Ramble to take the earliest opportunity to make one independently with those two great houses as their objective. They will undoubtedly carry away something of a new pride in the great traditions of their country and something of the spirit of

the great novelist and politician when he wrote over the cornice at Knebworth House the lines—

"Read the Rede of this old Roof Tree
Here be trust safe, and opinion free
Knightly hand Christian knee
Worth in all wit in some
Laughter open, slander dumb
Hearth where rooted friendship grows
Safe as Altar even to foes
Home where chivalry and grace
Cradle a high hearted race
If the sap in these may be
Fear no winter old Roof Tree."

DANCE.

Miss Cutler's dance on 16th April was a very lively affair, and the popular hostess has received many expressions of appreciation of the pleasure it has given. The music was excellent, and as the ladies and gentlemen were present in very equal numbers and were enthusiastic dancers the evening passed very merrily. Miss Treasure had decorated the ball room and supper room most artistically, and so gave a very festive setting for the dance. Mrs. Butcher and Mrs. Lambert assisted Miss Cutler as hostesses. The R.B.N.A. cook had determined to excel herself for Miss Cutler, and much admiration was expressed of the variety which the supper table provided and of the delicious dishes she had sent up. We offer to Miss Cutler our warm thanks for her generous hospitality.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE TRAINED NURSES' ANNUITY FUND.

Her Royal Highness The Princess Arthur of Connaught was graciously pleased to preside at the Annual General Meeting of the Trained Nurses' Annuity Fund on April 27th. On her arrival the Princess was received by Members of the Council and was presented with a beautiful bouquet of scarlet carnations by Miss Margaret Brown.

The Annual Report for 1931 showed that £849 had been invested during the year towards the foundation of fresh annuities. The sum received in subscriptions had been more than maintained, but there was a fall on that of the previous year in the amount received as donations. Acknowledgments were made of the large amount of voluntary work done for the Fund, work which had enabled the Council to invest a far larger sum for the foundation of annuities than would otherwise have been possible. Certain alterations in the Rules and Regulations adopted at the Special Meeting of Subscribers held in December, were confirmed.

In thanking the Princess for her gracious kindness in presiding at the Meeting, Major Rigg said that her interest in this Benevolent Fund was very deeply appreciated by the nurses, and in the name not only of the Council, but of the sick and aged nurses who received annuities he offered to Her Royal Highness the President most respectful and sincere thanks for her presence that day. To him it seemed a tremendous monument of the generosity of the nurses towards their colleagues that now over seventy nurses were in receipt of annuities so established that, when one nurse no longer requires help, this is passed on to some other. He congratulated the Hon. Secretary on the extent to which the Fund had grown since it came under her care.

When the meeting was over, Her Royal Highness had tea and later there were presented to her several nurses from the Dominions and other subscribers to the Fund who had been able to attend the Meeting.

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ISABEL MACDONALD,
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